

Hafa Adai!

Survey gauges impact of 'touchback' rule on NMI businesses. **PAGE 2**

Chief Prosecutor Hinds: Bail reform bill is vital. **PAGE 5**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

## FRIENDSHIP TOAST

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apataang and Philippine Consul to Guam Ferdinand P. Flores offer a toast to memorialize the friendship between the CNMI and the Philippines following the proclamation signing that designates the month of June as the Northern Mariana Islands-Philippine Friendship Month. The Filipino community in the CNMI celebrated yesterday the 125th Philippine Independence Day, which was highlighted with the flag-raising ceremony at the Marianas High School flag-raising grounds, followed by a formal program at the MHS cafeteria. The event was organized by the Philippine Consulate General Agana's Core Volunteers for the CNMI. The Philippines usually celebrates its Independence Day on June 12.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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**'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN**  
Days until  
'touchback rule'  
takes effect on  
Sept. 30, 2023:

**109**

## \$14M ARPA FUNDING PROMISED THE JUDICIARY

# 'Hanging by a thread'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

## RELATED NEWS

Judiciary's always underfunded; at bottom of totem pole' **PAGE 2**

Earlier this year, the NMI Judiciary received the dismaying news that the Commonwealth government's promise of American Rescue Plan Act money was hanging by a thread and that a substantial portion of the \$14-million ARPA funding that was supposed to go to the Judiciary may not materialize. *See HANGING on Page 4*

## 188 junk cars removed in 8 weeks

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office removed 188 junk cars from villages during an eight-week operation, according to Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho last Friday.

Speaking at the House of Represen-

*See JUNK on Page 4*

## THE GREAT GRIFT

## How billions in COVID-19 relief aid was stolen or wasted

By RICHARD LARDNER,  
JENNIFER McDERMOTT and  
AARON KESSLER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Much of the theft was brazen, even simple.

Fraudsters used the Social Security numbers of dead people and federal prisoners to

*See COVID-19 on Page 4*

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

The CMA CGM Foundation has launched a disaster relief effort in response to Typhoon Mawar.

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### NATION

Donald Trump and his allies are escalating efforts to undermine the criminal case against him.

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### LIFE & STYLE

"Kimberly Akimbo" has nudged aside rivals to win the musical crown at the Tony Awards.

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# Local

## Survey gauges impact of 'touchback' rule on NMII businesses

The Department of Labor in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is conducting a survey to understand how the CW visa "touchback policy" is affecting businesses in the region.

This is a requirement outlined in U.S. Public Law 115-218 - Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018. This federal law was passed to "incentivize the hiring of U.S. workers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes." The specific language that references the departure requirement is as follows:

### From Title

#### 48-TERRITORIES AND INSULAR POSSESSIONS

##### CHAPTER 17-NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SUB-CHAPTER I-APPROVAL OF COVENANT AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

(A) In general.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B)–

(i) a permit for a Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker;

(I) shall remain valid for a period that may not exceed 1 year; and

(II) may be renewed for not more than two consecutive, 1-year periods; and

(ii) at the expiration of the second renewal period, an alien may not again be eligible for such a permit until after the alien has remained outside of the United States for a continu-

ous period of at least 30 days prior to the submission of a renewal petition on their behalf.

(B) Long-term workers.—An alien who was admitted to the Commonwealth as a Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker during fiscal year 2015, and during every subsequent fiscal year beginning before July 24, 2018, may receive a permit for a Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker that is valid for a period that may not exceed 3 years and may be renewed

for additional 3-year periods during the transition period. A permit issued under this subparagraph shall be counted toward the numerical cap for each fiscal year within the period of petition validity.

The purpose of this survey is to gather essential information about the impact of this policy on businesses, including the number of affected employees, the positions they hold, anticipated departure months, and other relevant info.

The survey aims to identify challenges faced by businesses, assess the potential disruptions in operations, and explore strategies to mitigate the adverse effects this will



have on our economy and workforce needs.

The feedback received from this survey will help inform CNMI DOL efforts to address the concerns and needs of businesses during this transition period.

You can find the survey here or use the QR code: <https://bit.ly/3OW0QxV> Note: the address is case sensitive. (PR)

## 'Judiciary's always underfunded, placed at bottom of totem pole'

» **Chief justice: OMB's proposed \$900K budget for 'all others' allows courts only 3 months to operate**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

respect to the personnel category of \$5.8 million, Castro said.



In his personal observation and experience in the last 34 years, the Office of Management and Budget has unintentionally placed the Judiciary's budget request at an Executive Branch level and not as a separate branch of government, according to CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alejandro Castro.

"As a result, the Judiciary is always at the bottom of the totem pole and underfunded," said Castro, speaking at the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee hearing last Friday on the Judiciary's 2024 proposed budget.

To resolve this issue, the chief justice recommends a different approach on the budget process this year.

"First, let us acknowledge that there are three branches of government and fund those branches accordingly," he said.

Because of the CNMI's fiscal condition today, the Judiciary supports Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' submission with

\$300,000 allocation in the "all others" category in the proposed budget. Castro said this amount will only allow the courts to operate roughly three months into the fiscal year and then they have to close the doors of the courthouses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Knowing Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Castro said he does not think the two officials will support such an unintended consequence.

He said the Judiciary needs roughly an additional \$900,000 on top of the \$300,000 in the "all others" category, bringing their request up to \$1.2 million.

"That amount, \$1.2 million, sounds too much for a department and I agree. But as a third branch of our government, that \$1.2 million request is more than reasonable and, more importantly, essential," Castro pointed out.

## Fee waivers for NMC info session

Individuals who participate in Northern Marianas College's upcoming info session tomorrow, June 14, 2023 will qualify to have their NMC fall 2023 admission application fee and placement test fees waived. The waiver represents a savings of up to \$75.

The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Olympio T. Borja Library of the college's As Terlaje cam-

pus. The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and admissions.

NMC's fall 2023 semester will begin on Aug. 21, 2023. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6769/70/71/72 or email [oar@marianas.edu](mailto:oar@marianas.edu). (NMC)

# SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS

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**Saipan Tribune**  
THE CHAMPS FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



# 'Taste' tokens available at MVA office

Tokens for the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer

Garden are available for sale at the Marianas Visitors Authority office on the first floor

of Gold Beach Hotel along Beach Road, Saipan, from 1pm to 4pm Monday through

Friday (except holidays).

Tokens may be purchased via cash at the office or with

PayPal or credit/debit card at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com) (select "Pay via PayPal.") for pickup at the office or in the expedited line at the token

booth at the festival grounds.

For more information, contact the MVA at community-projects@mymarianas.com or 1.670.664.3200/1. (MVA)



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are joined by advocates and supporters after they proclaimed the month of June 2023 as CNMI Ocean Month and June 8, 2023, as CNMI Ocean Day at the Minachom Attdao in Susupe.

## June is CNMI Ocean Month

By CHRYSSTAL MARINO  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

To maintain and expand the preservation the CNMI's ocean, the month of June has been designated as CNMI Ocean Month, highlighting how the ocean is the defining feature of our region and islands.

The proclamation signing, which was held during a short ceremony last June 8, 2023, at the Minachom Attdao in Susupe, enables the CNMI to join the global recognition of June as the World Oceans Month, and also recognized that day as CNMI Ocean Day, aligning with the globally-ob-

served World Oceans Day.

Both Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang signed the proclamation. Others present included Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality officials and staff, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance executive director Roberta Guerrero, 500 Sails' Milton Coleman Jr., Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, among others.

The proclamation recognizes that the CNMI's ocean economy employs up to 8,300 people annually, making up an estimated 40% to 50% of local employment, and con-

tributes about \$922 million toward the CNMI's annual gross domestic product.

The proclamation noted that "the total economic value of coral reefs and seagrass in the CNMI is \$114.8 million annually, based on ecosystem services of commercial fishing, non-commercial fishing by residents, tourism and recreation, amenity and property

value, research, biodiversity, and coastal protection..."

The proclamation also noted the ocean's impact on the culture and traditions of all Pacific Islanders, as it serves as a connection and pathway among indigenous people and yet also the source of traditional knowledge and practice passed down from earlier generations. The proclamation

noted the preservation and protection of the ocean as a responsibility for everyone, and encouraged responsible stewardship of our waters.

Palacios and Apatang en-

couraged all citizens to reflect on the value and importance of the CNMI's ocean not only to our livelihoods and economy, but also as a source of recreation and enjoyment.



**DIVISION OF  
PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
CNMI GOVERNMENT  
INVITATION TO BID

**ITB NO.: ITB23-DOF/SOF-42300073**

**SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 13, 2023 TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

**"FUEL SUPPLY/FLEET CARD SYSTEM"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AT (670) 664-1128 OR VIA EMAIL AT [T.NORITA@DOF.GOV.MP](mailto:T.NORITA@DOF.GOV.MP).

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ TRACY B. NORITA  
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.  
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## COVID-19

From Page 1

get unemployment checks. Cheaters collected those benefits in multiple states. And federal loan applicants weren't cross-checked against a Treasury Department database that would have raised red flags about sketchy borrowers.

Criminals and gangs grabbed the money. But so did a U.S. soldier in Georgia, the pastors of a defunct church in Texas, a former state lawmaker in Missouri and a roofing contractor in Montana.

All of it led to the greatest graft in U.S. history, with thieves plundering billions of dollars in federal COVID-19 relief aid intended to combat the worst pandemic in a century and to stabilize an economy in free fall.

## HANGING

From Page 1

That's according to CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona, speaking at the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee hearing Friday on proposed 2024 budget for the Judiciary.

So far, Manglona said, they have only spent 47% (\$6.5 million) of the promised \$14-million ARPA funding. That \$6.5 million is just 1% of the \$481.87 million in total ARPA that was awarded the CNMI.

"There is now a serious risk that many of our projects [that] we planned in reliance on the full [ARPA] award will not be completed," Manglona said.

He said ARPA represented a very important promise to the Judiciary that they will be able to move forward and even improve their operations despite the hardships of 2021 and 2022.

As seen in their monthly reports on their actions, the Judiciary took this promise seriously and they rely on it, Manglona said, adding they have concrete plans for investment and the implementation of long overdue technology and facilities improvements.

"But little did we know that the four-year spending plan would only get to first base," the associate justice said.

He said they have just concluded their 2018-22 strategic plan for the courts and will soon release their next five-year plan, which will address major areas for progress.

Manglona said their strategic plan is based on the input of stakeholders, including the Legislature.

All that input and planning will go into waste, though, without the necessary funding to put them into action, he said.

The associate justice provided some details on their important projects in three areas to show what they have achieved under the previous plan and what they still hope to achieve when they get the support they need.

First, he said, they are prioritizing technological and digitization advances.

In November 2022, the CNMI Judiciary became the first jurisdic-

An Associated Press analysis found that fraudsters potentially stole more than \$280 billion in COVID-19 relief funding; another \$123 billion was wasted or misspent. Combined, the loss represents 10% of the \$4.2 trillion the U.S. government has so far disbursed in COVID relief aid.

That number is certain to grow as investigators dig deeper into thousands of potential schemes.

How could so much be stolen? Investigators and outside experts say the government, in seeking to quickly spend trillions in relief aid, conducted too little oversight during the pandemic's early stages and instituted too few restrictions on applicants. In short, they say, the graft was just way too easy.

"Here was this sort of endless pot of money that anyone could access," said Dan Fruchter, chief of the fraud and white-collar crime unit at the

U.S. Attorney's office in the Eastern District of Washington. "Folks kind of fooled themselves into thinking that it was a socially acceptable thing to do, even though it wasn't legal."

The U.S. government has charged more than 2,230 defendants with pandemic-related fraud crimes and is conducting thousands of investigations.

Most of the looted money was swiped from three large pandemic-relief initiatives launched during the Trump administration and inherited by President Joe Biden. Those programs were designed to help small businesses and unemployed workers survive the economic upheaval caused by the pandemic.

The pilfering was wide but not always as deep as the eye-catching headlines about cases involving many millions of dollars. But all of

services and that they need to modernize their elevators.

Third, Manglona said, they have continued to focus on their most important resource, which is their staff. He said their "high quality and professional workforce" is necessary to maintain compliance with federal laws, such as Title Six of the Civil Rights Act, or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

He said they have continued to enhance services available to persons with limited English proficiency by updating their language access plan and policy, and holding workshops for court interpreters and staff.

Manglona said some federal funding has allowed a few of their staff at Drug Court and Mental Health Court to receive needed specialized training.

"But we continue to lose a number of our trained staffers to other government agencies offering higher salaries," he said. The associate justice said they're holding on to the promise of ARPA and local funding, and that there is much work yet to be done.

He said the Judiciary has made positive developments on technology, facilities improvement, personnel, and community outreach, but they won't be able to accomplish much without the Legislature's assistance.

Looking at the governor's proposal of \$316,590 for the Judiciary's "all others" that was submitted to the Legislature, Manglona said this is not practical and unrealistic. He said the math says this is about \$865 per day to operate the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota courts, the Drug Court and Mental Health Court.

"\$865 a day. This is simply not the way to operate the third branch of government," Manglona pointed out.

For fiscal year 2024, the Judiciary has requested \$8.3 million for personnel, \$1.1 million for "all others," and \$430,000 for utilities, for a total of \$9.9 million.

The governor's proposed budget for the Judiciary in fiscal year 2024 is \$5.87 million for personnel, \$316,590 for "all others," and \$300,000 for utilities, for a total of \$6.4 million.

In fiscal year 2023, Public Law 22-22 allocated a \$6.4-million budget for the Judiciary.

the theft, big and small, illustrates an epidemic of scams and swindles at a time America was grappling with overrun hospitals, school closures and shuttered businesses. Since the pandemic began in early 2020, more than 1.13 million people in the U.S. have died from COVID-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Michael Horowitz, the U.S. Justice Department inspector general who chairs the federal Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, told Congress the fraud is "clearly

in the tens of billions of dollars" and may eventually exceed \$100 billion.

Horowitz told the AP he was sticking with that estimate, but won't be certain about the number until he gets more solid data.

"I'm hesitant to get too far out on how much it is," he said. "But clearly it's substantial and the final accounting is still at least a couple of years away."

**A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)**

Coast Guard C-130 aircraft.

As for the cost to ship the containers, Torres said the CNMI administration, DOC, and DOC's partners in this initiative will split the cost. Freight company Matson has agreed to work on either lowering the cost or waiving a few of the fees to ship the container to Guam.

Aside from DOC and the offices of the Governor and Lt. Governor, other agencies that took part in the relief drive were the Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, CNMI Legislature, and the Saipan Mayor's Office.

According to Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres, who proposed the idea of a government-led relief drive, the activity was a resounding success and it was an overwhelming feeling to see the Saipan community come together to help its sister island, Guam.

"[Yesterday] was the last day of our relief drive. The container [was] picked up by APL and will be transported to Guam [today]. The first container [had been] on standby as shipments to Rota were prioritized, so it is expected to be sent out at the same time. It's been awesome. I can't really describe the feeling. I feel thankful and emotional seeing how many individuals, establishments, and agencies came out to donate for the people of Guam," he said.

Torres said the containers will be received by Mayor Jesse L.G. Alig of the municipality of Piti, Guam. Alig will be in charge of distributing the goods to different municipalities in Guam.

Torres said that DOC has also prepared a pallet of relief goods that will be shipped to Rota today on a U.S.

"We were all in because we've all been there, we've experienced what Guam is going through now after Soudelor and Yutu. All those times Guam has helped us out so it's only fair that we return that favor. It's great to see the Marianas come together to help one another in times like these," he said.

hicles in villages.

In the case of repairs his office makes on secondary roads, Camacho said a lot of these roads—most of them in village interiors—are unpaved, so heavy rain makes these roads impassable.

Rain or shine, they continue repairing those roads as they don't wait for complaints to come in, he added.

"We provide immediate action to those things because our concern is the safety of people, for emergency vehicles' response," he said.

Since the beginning of his administration on Jan. 9 to the present, Camacho said they have extracted 2,100 cubic yards of corals to rebuild these roads. He said the repairs are not just on one specific area, but are islandwide.

"2,100 is a lot of cubic yards," Camacho said.

## JUNK

From Page 1

tatives Ways and Means Committee hearing on the Saipan Mayor's Office's proposed budget for 2024, Camacho said junk cars pose a huge problem in villages so they started removing these vehicles every Tuesday and Thursday, starting from the south side to the north side of the island.

Camacho said a recycling center later refused to continue accepting junk vehicles because they're already overpacked. Another recycling center, however, just opened recently in Lower Base, he said, prompting them to reactivate the removal operation.

Camacho said that, despite the extraction of 188 junk cars during twice-a-week operations in eight weeks, there are still a lot of junk ve-

# Chief Prosecutor Hinds: Bail reform bill is vital

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Hinds to stay in their own home and is forced to seek protection in a shelter. This bill is vital for keeping victims feeling secure and safe. As a result, people of the Commonwealth will have more confidence in the criminal justice system's ability to help victims of crimes," he said.

Hinds explained that the proposed bill would strike a balance between the rights of the accused and public safety.

"The bill takes a strong stance on offenders who commit felony offenses with victims involved. When an offender commits crimes such as violent crimes, most especially crimes of domestic violence such as stalking, strangulation, sexual assault, and assault and battery, an offender will no longer be released on bail to potentially harm another or the same victim who called the police in the first place," he said.

He stressed that the bill wouldn't automatically take away a defendant's right to bail upon arrest; instead, it allows the prosecution to file a motion to deny bail with evidence to show cause why bail should be denied.

"A defendant's right to bail

is not automatically taken upon rearrest. A prosecutor must file a motion to deny bail and show by a preponderance of evidence why the court should deny the defendant's release through bail. This step allows the court to again balance the need for public safety with the rights of the accused," Hinds added.

The bill, which was named after Keisha King (the woman who was held hostage and later shot dead by repeat offender Gordon Castro in 2019) hits close to home for Hinds, as he was the prosecutor assigned to King's killer.

"In 2019, repeat offender Gordon Castro was released on bail. I was the prosecutor that handled the Gordon Castro drug case in 2019. He was allowed to post bail even though

he had a kidnapping (domestic violence) conviction in 2015, in which he served three years. It was during his release in the 2019 case where first illegally obtained a gun, then kidnapped his then-girlfriend, Keisha King, who he eventually shot and killed," he said.

"I knew Keisha King. She was a graduate of the Judiciary's Drug Court program. Keisha was smart and had a bright future. But like many victims who try to get away from their old life and abusive relationships, they cannot break the cycle of violence because their offender is free. In that case, Gordon Castro should have never been out on bail. If he was not out on bail, Keisha may have had a chance to live a fruitful and promising

life," Hinds added.

Ultimately, Hinds said, it's because of cases like this that the OAG fully supports this bail reform bill.

"There are many issues that need to be addressed to ensure others are not in the same situation like the Gordon Castro case. This bill works collec-

tively to address some of those issues, which will not only improve public safety, but the victim's safety," he said.

The Bail Reform Act is being opposed by 17 lawyers in the CNMI, including the Office of the Public Defender headed by Public Defender Doug Hartig.

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS  
FOR ACCESS CONTROL, VIDEO MONITORING, AND GATE OPERATOR  
AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-010-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (Authority) is inviting qualified and experienced contractors specializing in airport security systems to submit sealed proposal, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for the preventive maintenance services and repairs of the Authority access control, video monitoring, and gate operator at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The RFP Package is available beginning May 15, 2023, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of an administrative fee of \$100.00 payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". Payment shall be by cash, certified cashier's check, postal money order, or credit card.

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

RFP Issued Date	May 15, 2023
Pre-proposal Meeting	June 02, 2023 (10:00 A.M.)
Deadline for Questions and/or Clarification	June 05, 2023
Deadline for RFP submission	June 13, 2023 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their proposals sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs to Access Control, Video Monitoring, and Gate Operator at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Project No. CPA-RFP-010-23". Proposals must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. Local Time, June 13, 2023, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

#### FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY.

EDWARD B. MENDIOLA  
Deputy Executive Director

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-083

Opening Date: Wednesday, June 7, 2023  
Closing Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2023



POSITION TITLE:  
DEPARTMENT:  
LOCATION:  
ANNUAL SALARY:  
CONTRACT:  
POSITION(S):

Trades Assistant  
Water Division  
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA  
\$16,742.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, non-Exempt  
Not Contracted  
Two (2)

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Wastewater Division.

**Duties:**

- Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples.
- Must be able to lift objects weighing at 40 lbs. or more.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**Minimum Requirements:**

Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.  
Knowledge: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:

- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131  
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-023

#### Supply and Delivery of Permanent Meter Test Bench And Portable Meter Test Bench

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of one (1) permanent meter test bench and one (1) portable meter test bench for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, to assist water operation staff with CUC's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Strategy (SWIMS) program.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on June 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUCIFB-23-023, Supply and Delivery of Permanent Meter Test Bench and Portable Meter Test Bench" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 28, 2023, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 16, 2023 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM  
Purchasing Administrator

## FOR KINDERGARTEN, 8TH, AND 12TH GRADES

## MCS holds three commencement ceremonies



YURIHANA ROSA  
DELEON GUERRERO  
SASAMOTO  
Valedictorian  
High School



KYLA MONIQUE  
BULLAN CABRERA  
Salutatorian  
High School



BRENT MATTHEW  
ESTACIO ORTIZO  
Salutatorian  
High School



SEUNG WOO CHOI  
Valedictorian  
Grade 8



HOPE GIANNA  
MCQUAY  
Salutatorian  
Grade 8



JOSE CLARENCE  
TENORIO  
Salutatorian  
Grade 8



Mount Carmel School's Kindergarten graduates sang the CNMI and U.S. national anthems during a traditional promotion ceremony at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

MCS

To conclude the 2022-2023 school year, Mount Carmel School held its annual commencement ceremonies for all her student graduates. This year marked a special occasion as the school celebrated its 70th anniversary and all students were able to experience the most "normal" school year since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

All the ceremonies were held at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. Families unable to attend the ceremonies were able to watch the event through a livestream on the school's Facebook page.

This year, Mount Carmel School conferred diplomas for 31 Kindergarten students, 51 eighth-grade students, and 36 graduating seniors.

Among the eighth-grade graduates, Hope Gianna McQuay and Jose Clarence Tenorio tied as their class' salutatorians. Earning the top rank as valedictorian was Seung Woo Choi.

Among high school graduates from the class of 2023, Kyla Monique Bullan Cabrera and Brent Matthew Estacio Ortiz tied as the salutatorians. The class valedictorian for this school year was awarded to Yurihana Rosa Deleon Guerrero Sasamoto.

During her welcoming remarks at the school's 2023 Commencement Ceremony on June 3, 2023, Mount Carmel School president Frances T. Taimanao commended the graduates and reminded them to keep their faith steadfast as they enter the next chapter of their lives.

"Graduation is a time of transition, a time to look back on all you have accomplished, and a time to look at what's ahead. As you move to the next stage of your life, your soon to be college-life, I'd like to leave you with a few words of encouragement from the Bible in Proverbs Chapter 3 verses 5 to 6: 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path.' No matter what challenges you may face in life, remember you can overcome them with your faith in God," Taimanao said.

Mount Carmel School's keynote speaker for the commencement ceremony was Zeno Deleon Guerrero Jr., a 2017 AlumKnight and a current English teacher at MCS. The theme of Deleon Guerrero's speech was focused on the idea of dreams.

The following awards were presented to the eighth and 12th-grade graduates:

#### 12th Grade Graduates with Honors

Valedictorian- Yurihana Rosa DLG.

Sasamoto  
Salutatorian (tie)- Kyia Monique Bullan Cabrera  
Salutatorian (tie)- Brent Matthew Estacio Ortiz  
1st Honor- Jill Anne Marie O. Mallari  
2nd Honor- Gerald John Inos Deleon Guerrero, Jr.  
3rd Honor- Manuel Jacinto M. Pangilinan  
4th Honor- Donnie James Jr. Calma Militante  
5th Honor- Brissa Concepcion Hunter  
6th Honor- Francine Monique Flores Albuen  
7th Honor- Leunyce B. Regalado  
8th Honor- Leopoldo Lucas DLG. Naraja  
9th Honor- Kinamarie Irene M. Dela Cruz  
10th Honor- Jazmyn Phoeme Del Rosario Lopez  
11th Honor (tie)- Mathew Adrian Ayuyu Sablan  
11th Honor (tie)- Derek Moritaro S. Sasamoto  
12th Honor- Erin Lillian Frink  
13th Honor- Moeisha Eleanor F. Cruz  
14th Honor- Raeka Shereen A. Lantin  
15th Honor- Kayannie Ilifighár Borja Peter  
16th Honor- Clint Allen M. Irang  
17th Honor- Dohyun Lim  
18th Honor- Kristan Rose Coldeen Torres

19th Honor- Aubriana Maria Afleje Sablan

20th Honor- Jose John I. Mafnas

21st Honor- Carlo Crisdeo Hilario Diaz

22nd Honor- Ohane Sablan Borja

Drama Award- Kyia Monique Bullan Cabrera

Speech Award- Jill Anne Marie O. Mallari

Physical/Health Education Award

Female- Erin Lillian Frink

Male- Leopoldo Lucas DLG. Naraja

#### 12th Grade Special Awards

Bishop Christian Service Award-

Kyia Monique Bullan Cabrera

President's Award- Kyia Monique Bullan Cabrera

Governor's Leadership Award- Gerald John Inos Deleon Guerrero, Jr.

Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Award - Yurihana Rosa DLG. Sasamoto

Outstanding Female Graduate- Brissa Concepcion Hunter

8th Grade Graduates with Honors

Valedictorian- Seung Woo Choi

Salutatorian - Hope Gianna McQuay

Salutatorian - Jose Clarence Tenorio

1st Honor- Sage Ramon Villagomez

2nd Honor- Josephine Lucero Lopez

3rd Honor- Justin O. Mallari

4th Honor- Rafael Elijah Pacheco De Belen

5th Honor- Iris Malei'a Seman Rasa

6th Honor (Tie)- Chan Woong (Henry) Yeom

6th Honor (Tie)- Kaitlyn Alexza A. Drilon

7th Honor- Nicole Angela Siemon Pangilinan

8th Honor- Naomi Skye H. Matsu moto

9th Honor- Taher Shakir

10th Honor- Stephanie Joyce C. Sevilla

11th Honor- Jeein Lee

12th Honor- Jeffrey George Concepcion

13th Honor- Sarah Angela Bamba Melchor

14th Honor- Christopher James N. Dela Cruz

15th Honor- Juliana Magan T. Subang

16th Honor- Kaden Christian M. Propst

17th Honor- Enzo Umeki Deleon Guerrero Sasamoto

18th Honor- Serenity Ann Cepeda Fujihira

19th Honor- Patricia Ann Matsu moto

20th Honor- Chan Seo (Stephen) Yeom

21st Honor- Patrick Villagomez Guerrero

22nd Honor- Carly Kate P. Dela Cruz

23rd Honor (tie)- Hiromi Rosa Pangilinan Sasamoto

23rd Honor (tie)- Yukiko Kiyomi S. Sasamoto

24th Honor- Gabriela Bark

25th Honor- Christine Rosanne N. Castro

#### 8th Grade Special Awards

Citizenship Award- Nicole Angela Siemon Pangilinan

Principal's Award- Seung Woo Choi

(MCS)



Mount Carmel School conferred 36 diplomas during the 63rd Commencement Ceremony for the graduating class of 2023 at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

MCS



Mount Carmel School conferred 51 diplomas during her traditional commencement ceremony for the graduating eighth-grade class of 2023 at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.



## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>

## PUBLIC NOTICE

06/13/2023

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

## NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation  
Saipan MP, 96950  
Telephone(s): (670)234-9447/6866

These notices shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after June 29, 2023, the *Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands* will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Sunset Rentals, Fina Sisu • The "Sunset Rentals" project proposes to build two (2) units, consisting of three-bedrooms each.	Affordable Rental Housing	Fina Sisu, Saipan	Approximately \$500,000.00 of CDBG-DR funds; no other funds are to be used

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net) or NMHC Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) website at [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com); or on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan, examined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments to the following options: via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and via email at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net). All comments received by **June 28, 2023, 4:30 p.m.** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Arnold I. Palacios consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of fund and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at [Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov](mailto:Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov) or via telephone (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/  
Arnold I. Palacios  
Governor of the CNMI



## COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702  
Website: [www.NMJudiciary.com](http://www.NMJudiciary.com)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

**PROGRAM SPECIALIST**  
On the Island of SAIPAN  
Announcement # JVA23-020

**DUTIES:** The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of the Chief Justice and under the direct supervision of the Director of Courts. The candidate is responsible for assisting with administrative functions related to local and federally-funded court programs. The candidate is expected to perform the following duties and responsibilities, but are not limited to the following:

- Research sources of program grants or funds at the local, regional, and national level;
- Assist with the development of specific programs and scope of work, including proposed budget and anticipated strategies and outcomes;
- Compile and review information necessary for funding solicitations, applications, or awards;
- Draft responses and reports relevant to funding solicitations, applications or awards;
- Assist with budget analysis and cost review for personnel, operational items, incentive purchases, and other financial factors as applicable to program goals;
- Assist with the draft, review and completion of physical, digital and web-based funding registration, applications, forms, and reports;
- Review, track, and report on internal and external factors related to funding registration, solicitations, application or awards;
- Assist with the drafts of monthly, quarterly, close-out or other standard program progress reports;
- Assist with records handling and funds tracking for designated programs;
- Maintain and improve upon existing paper and digital filing systems related to general correspondence, funding applications, awards, funds status, quarterly and other performance reports;
- Develop knowledge and maintain current updates on program and funding compliance requirements and assist court personnel and program partners in meeting compliance mandates;
- Create forms and fill-type documents for internal compliance controls and assist with training of proper use of documents;
- Monitor program compliance, including maintaining date certain tasks, services and items inventory;
- Adhere to local and federal document and information retention requirements and complies with all applicable procurement operating procedures, regulations, and statutes;
- Assist in the procurement process for program proposals, expenditures, and delivery of services or items;
- Coordinate compliance controls and program monitoring with the Director of Courts or his/her designee to ensure proper fiscal administration of funds and activities;
- Implement audit prerequisites and assist with procedures for funds, performance, or inventory audits;
- Foster and maintain professional network with internal and external fund managers and program officers and maintain registry of contacts information;
- Provide standard administrative support for designated projects as assigned by the Director of Courts or his/her designee;
- Maintain and submit performance tracking reports to the Director of Courts or his/her designee; and
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Chief Justice.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:**

The Program Specialist must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy one of the following: (1) Have a bachelor's degree from a nationally accredited college or university in public or business administration, economics, finance, business management or accounting or related field; and at least two years of experience in research and writing, responding to and/or evaluating grant proposals and applications, contracts and reports, or related areas; OR

(2) six years of experience in research and writing, general administrative and financial management, or related field.

Must be skilled with the use of computers, internet, general office equipment, and other electronic devices standard to the justice system. Software proficiency is required, especially with Microsoft Office programs such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308).

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.<sup>1</sup>

**COMPENSATION AND TENURE:** This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. The salary range will be \$30,000 - \$35,000 annually.

**INTERESTED PERSONS** Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices at Kotten Tinian in Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

NMI Judiciary  
Human Resources  
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165 Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670) 236-9818 • Cell. (670) 783-8592 • Fax. (670) 236-9702  
[hr.judiciary@NMJudiciary.gov](mailto:hr.judiciary@NMJudiciary.gov)

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.NMJudiciary.gov>

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

**THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.**

<sup>1</sup> The following organizations evaluate foreign educational credentials for employment and other purposes. All operate on a fee based on the extent of the education to be evaluated; applicants shall bear the cost of evaluation.  
(a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024  
(b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011  
(c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217  
(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 97223  
(e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97233  
While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 116

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Talk about pride. Schools stand up against intolerance and hate

**I**t was supposed to be a routine vote. On the Tuesday agenda for the Glendale Unified School District Board of Education was an item designating June as Pride Month for the LGBTQ+ community, recognizing the month in which the 1969 Stonewall uprising began. Local boards and councils vote on ceremonial items like this all the time to recognize various communities in their districts.

But then the agents of hate showed up. Even before the meeting, dozens of people gathered outside to lodge their objection to a vote that they believe supported the rights of LGBTQ+ people. Among the protesters were members of the Proud Boys, a group advocating for white supremacist and anti-government ideologies that participated in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection. Soon, LGBTQ+ advocates showed up to protest the protesters, and before long the crowd became unruly and violent. Three people were arrested.

In the end, the Glendale school board voted to support the designation and, in so doing, took a courageous stand against an insidious strain of intolerance that has been creeping into public school districts across the nation.

Just the week before, a very similar scenario played out in North Hollywood over a school assembly featuring, "The Great Big Book of Families" at the Saticoy Elementary School. Protesters carried signs with statements such as, "Parental Choice Matters." Ironically, Saticoy parents did have a choice about whether they wanted their kids to attend the assembly.

That protest didn't scare the Los Angeles Unified school board either. On Tuesday the board passed a resolution listing upcoming events it will recognize in addition to Pride Month, such as LGBTQ+ History Month in October and Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 20. In addition, the resolution encourages all district schools to incorporate LGBTQ+ curriculum adopted by the state.

Troublingly, the protests in Glendale and North Hollywood are part of a growing political movement nationwide targeting LGBTQ+ communities, trying to silence and erase them, and even often falsely accusing them of crimes. Books that have been banned in districts nationwide, including in California, are often targeted solely because they include LGBTQ+ characters or topics.

On Tuesday, the Human Rights Campaign declared a state of emergency for LGBTQ+ people in the U.S. in light of more than 525 state bills in 2023 targeting them. It was the first time in its 43-year history that the civil rights organization made such a declaration. More than 70 of these bills have been signed into law so far this year.

These targeted campaigns aren't just happening in states governed by primarily Republican legislators. At the Temecula Valley Unified School District in Riverside County, teachers protested on Tuesday after the school board rejected social studies textbooks and curriculum for elementary students that contained what school board members called

See TALK on Page 9



## How America gets to a new center

**A**merica needs a new center, but it does not need a new centrist political party. A new centrist political party that could overcome the widely recognized dysfunction in our national politics caused by both political parties would be great, but it is not going to happen. There are too many impediments preventing the rise of a vibrant third party, including the fundraising obstacle, gerrymandering, the absence of open primaries in most states, and the poor historic record of third party candidates.

What is needed is a surge in independent politicians who are not part of a weak national third party, but who will push, directly and indirectly, the political system into a new center space. Democrats and Republicans ironically will be central to the birth of the new center and the death of their joint control over our political system.

Independent candidates from different ideological perspectives in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate could wield sufficient power to forge compromises on major legislation concerning guns, the environment, child care, paid parental leave, the national debt and corporate tax rates. The key is not to make a centrist political party the change agent, which was the strategy of Charles Wheelan's "The Centrist Manifesto" and the third party, Unite America. This strategy paints a target on the back of the third party itself.

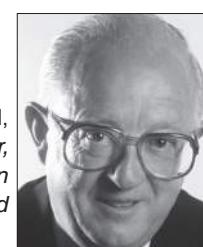
Dartmouth's Professor Wheelan was about half right: generate enough votes in the Senate to act as a fulcrum (he called his approach the "Fulcrum Strategy") to forge compromises between the two parties. But he was mistaken to think that we needed a political party which advocated for moderate centrist solutions proposed by independents to create the leverage necessary to bring about the changes. Candidates which Unite America backed for the House and Senate in 2018 all came up short, and Unite America reinvented itself in 2019 and 2020. Today they back independents, Republicans and Democrats as well as election reform initiatives.

Independents, on the view being articulated here, would ultimately leverage their power to generate ambitious centrist solutions, but they themselves would not start from a moderate centrist standpoint or an ambitious new centrist standpoint. They would ideally move toward an ambitious new centrist standpoint because it would be more agreeable than the positions of the two major parties. We need creativity and out of the

**By DAVE ANDERSON**

The Fulcrum

Dave Anderson edited *Leveraging: A Political, Economic and Societal Framework* (Springer, 2014), has taught at five universities and ran for the Democratic nomination for a Maryland congressional seat in 2016.



box thinking, not the same old trench warfare.

Therefore, the task before us is to have a diversity of communities and funders to encourage and back candidates from a range of political perspectives -- libertarian to green -- that are united in their opposition to both Democrats and Republicans. These candidates will disagree about substantive policies but agree that neither the Democrats nor the Republicans have the answers or the requisite attitudes to craft the policy solutions we need. Their opposition to the two major parties, however, will in the end be sufficient to create the legislative basis for tripartisan solutions to our major challenges ahead that go beyond a moderate middle position between the two major parties.

There is no doubt that structural changes are needed in our electoral system as well, notably ranked-choice voting, open primaries and elimination of gerrymandering. Yet new laws and regulations will not by themselves transform the electoral system. We need a concept of how legislative change could come about through tripartisan policy solutions, and we need organizations which are in the fixing our democracy space as well as the media, traditional and social, to televise, advertise and catalyze this political development.

Notice that electing an independent president would shorten the birth pangs of this new political system, but change can come about with either a Democratic or Republican president. The president will need to help steer a new centrist legislative agenda, but ultimately it is Congress that will be the driving force of this transformation because Congress, not the president, makes laws.

The trajectory from here, to be sure, will not be linear. It will be more complex and nuanced. It will also take place over the course of five to ten years. You cannot transform Washington politics with a wrecking ball.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## The last gasps of the party of Reagan

**W**in one as the Gipper? Good luck with that. This week the Republican field for the presidency took near-final form, and it became clear that among Donald Trump's suddenly expanded number of rivals, some are modeling themselves to varying degrees on that other former president, Ronald Reagan. That strategy is a way of breaking, if only implicitly, with Trump and Trumpism: going back to the future by invoking the most beloved of modern presidents among Republicans.

Of all the announced candidates, none is more overt about embracing Reagan over Trump than Trump's once-obsequious vice president, Mike Pence. At 64, Pence is among the older Trump challengers in the bunch, old enough for Reagan to have been a formative influence for him in real time—as Pence recounted in his presidential announcement in Iowa on Wednesday.

He started in politics as a Democrat, Pence told his assembled supporters. "But I've got to tell ya—as soon as I heard the voice of the 40th president of the United States, I joined the Reagan revolution and never looked back."

He punched those final words for emphasis. Yet even in his friendly audience, the applause was merely polite.

That's a telling response. It suggests the very real limits of donning the Reagan mantle, whether for Pence, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, former South Carolina governor and United Nations ambassador Nikki Haley, or this week's other two new entrants in the contest, former Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey and second-term North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum.

Reagan, the self-styled optimist who expanded the Republican Party's appeal even as he turned it rightward in the 1980s, is an increasingly faded memory for voters; he left office nearly 35 years ago and soon disappeared from public view, diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He died two decades ago.

Invocations of his name and legacy may have animated Republi-

cans once, but now the Gipper can't win it for anybody.

Today's Republican Party is the Trump Party. Even many of its voters who aren't solidly MAGAied nonetheless want Trump in 2024 or—if they've tired of his maniacal dramas and legal morass—someone like him, just without so much baggage.

So far, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has dominated that lane. Yes, as governor he did once declare Feb. 6, the 40th president's birthday, as Ronald Reagan Day in Florida. But as a presidential candidate, DeSantis is trying to out-Trump Trump—in the right-wing culture wars, with anti-immigration stunts and by populist attacks on iconic corporations—seemingly without regard to how that performance would damage him for the general election, should he win the Republican nomination.

Hutchinson once joked to Washington journalists at an annual dinner of their Gridiron Club that for DeSantis to challenge Trump would mark the first time a father and son have ever opposed each other for the presidency. Mini-Me DeSantis does share Trump's superpower—shamelessness—and a zeal for punching back and punching down, though he's only lately starting to do so against the former president.

The potency of Trumpism is evident in the party: Together, Trump and DeSantis have backing from three-quarters of Republican voters, though DeSantis has slid behind the former president in the polling by roughly 30 percentage points on average. Still, he remains Trump's only rival whose party support is in double digits.

Republican voters, those who participate in primaries and caucuses, aren't looking for a return to Reagan's trademark sunny optimism and talk of America as the "shining city on the hill." Even before Trump (think Newt Gingrich, and the tea party movement), these voters were looking for scrappers whose rhetoric leaned more toward "American carnage" and who validated the voters' grievances against the elites. Trump just took the pugilism up a notch—OK, many notches—and they were hooked.

By JACKIE CALMES

Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times in Washington, D.C.



Differences between Reaganism and Trumpism aren't just ones of style and rhetoric. They're substantive, which also works against those who would be Reagan redux.

There's overlap between the -isms, mainly in favoring tax cuts and deregulation. But Reagan's defining policies also included some that are now all but anathema in the Trump Party: He was pro-immigration; the landmark 1986 law he signed included amnesty for millions of undocumented immigrants. He was for free trade, not protectionism. He was anti-communist and condemned the then-Soviet Union as an evil empire—as Pence and Haley have suggested, Reagan would surely have opposed Russia's invasion of Ukraine and supported U.S. assistance to the defenders.

On Wednesday, Pence, reflecting his Reaganist bent, slammed Trump and DeSantis, too, for being willing to forfeit American leadership on the world stage and to coddle dictators such as Vladimir Putin. Yet he has to know that muscular internationalism is increasingly unpopular among his would-be voters. They flock behind Trump's isolationist "America First" banner. The intraparty tension is evident in Congress, where Republicans are split over further aid to Ukraine.

When candidates for president are mired in single digits in the polls, it can't hurt for them to wrap themselves in the mantle of a party icon. But it won't help them either. Reaganism is the past. The Republican Party shows no signs of going back—and certainly not in time for the 2024 primaries.

## Making Google and Meta pay for news they profit from

By ROD SIMS and ANYA SCHIFFRIN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

**T**he California Assembly recently voted in favor of journalism by supporting the proposed California Journalism Preservation Act (Assembly Bill 886), which would require social media companies to pay a "usage fee" to publishers for the news content that the platforms benefit from. The publishers, in turn, would have to spend at least 70% of the fees they receive on journalists or support staff. The money would come out of the platforms' advertising revenue and the amount would be determined by arbitration.

The bill now goes before the state Senate. By passing the law, California would be just one of many jurisdictions looking to emulate Australia's News Media Bargaining Code, developed by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, which became law in 2021. Canada's equivalent will likely become law in a few months and now governments in Britain, Brazil, Indonesia, New Zealand, South Africa and Switzerland are all considering similar laws.

Around the world, many journalism outlets are in crisis with advertising revenues plummeting while Google and Meta use their news content to attract users—and advertising dollars—without paying for it. Attempts by media companies to receive some payment for their work have gone nowhere for years. Australia's groundbreaking law directly addresses this bargaining power imbalance.

We now have two years of Australian experience to learn from. The estimated payout to Australian publishers has been well over \$140 million each year, with both small and large media organizations benefiting from that revenue source. Google has formed commercial arrangements with virtually all qualifying media outlets, while Meta has completed deals with outlets employing some 85% of Australian journalists.

A review of the news bargaining code by the Australian

Treasury department in late 2022 deemed the code a success. Hundreds of new jobs have been created, with employment data showing a 46% increase in job ads for journalists. For example, the *Guardian Australia* added 50 journalists, bringing its newsroom total to 150. Journalism professors also say that more of their students are getting hired and some job vacancies are going unfilled.

Opponents of the Australian law argued that most of the money would go to the largest media outlets. That is, of course, true since those organizations employ the most journalists and produce the most news used by Google and Meta. But small media groups have benefited enormously from the law, just as small media groups will in California. Country Press Australia, which represents 160 very small publications, has been able to negotiate excellent deals for its members with both Google and Meta, which will help underwrite their prosperity.

Another argument put forward by opponents is that Google and Meta do not always advertise against media content. That is not the point; media content attracts users to the platforms where they can see advertisements.

Google search would be far less useful if it did not offer users access to media content ranging from the best new movies to court cases to COVID-19. By showing the headline and a few lines of news in Google search, Google skims off the most valuable part of the news without sharing the monetary benefits with news outlets. And imagine how much less useful your daily Facebook feed would be with no journalist-produced news content at all.

Opponents of the law have also argued that it could benefit media organizations that traffic in misinformation or biased reporting. But laws should not choose one outlet over another. Australia has four large media companies, many medium-sized companies and a huge number of smaller media outlets. They all benefited from deals with Google and nearly all benefited from Meta deals. Journalism as a whole was the winner.

Meta has threatened to block all news from Facebook if the California law passes, just as it did in Australia for a week before backing down. Facebook blocked Australian news in early 2021 during the COVID pandemic and bush fire season which prevented potentially lifesaving news getting out. The popular backlash against Facebook was swift.

This is a critical time for journalism. News organizations are struggling to stay alive while huge internet platforms that benefit financially from journalism are freeloading from content providers. This imbalance is a serious threat to information in any free society.

The California Journalism Preservation Act, like the Australian law, is a vital piece of legislation that will help keep journalism sustainable.

*Rod Sims, a professor at Australian National University, was chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission when the News Media Bargaining Code was being formulated and enacted. Anya Schiffrin is the director of the Technology, Media, and Communications specialization at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.*

### TALK

From Page 8

"morally objectionable material." School board President Joseph Komrosky called slain gay rights activist and former San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk "a pedophile." Shame on that board for tolerating such hateful statements at a public meeting.

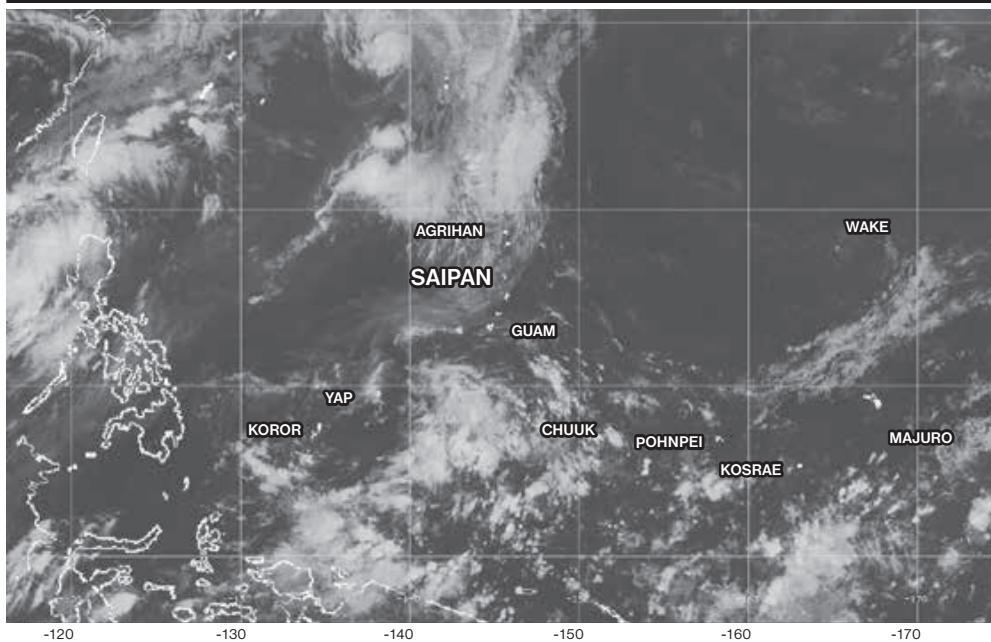
Too many school districts are giving into the intolerant bullies. Los Angeles and Glendale should be proud that their school boards did not.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
86°	76°	86°	76°	87°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 7:47 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite indicates mostly cloudy skies and isolated showers this morning within the Marianas Waters. The Ipan buoy reveals an east trade-wind swell of 3 to 4 feet with a bit of east-southeast wind waves on top. Wave model guidance suggests a 4 to 5 foot west-northwest swell from distant Typhoon Guchol. These are all acting together to give combined seas in the 4 to 6 foot range.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	87°	/	81°
Palau	Thunderstorms	81°	/	76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84°	/	78°
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	88°	/	81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	89°	/	79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88°	/	79°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	86°	/	82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:47 AM	2:23 PM	-
Wednesday	2:26 AM	3:16 PM	-
Thursday	3:07 AM	4:11 PM	-
Friday	3:50 AM	5:07 PM	-
Saturday	4:36 AM	6:03 PM	-

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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## AROUND THE GLOBE

Auckland	Sunny	60° / 42°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	92° / 66°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°
London	Sunny	83° / 55°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	68° / 58°
Manila	Scattered Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	56° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
New York	Rain	74° / 64°
Osaka	Cloudy	80° / 71°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	85° / 60°
Busan	Cloudy	74° / 66°
Rome	Thunderstorms	81° / 64°
Salem	Showers	85° / 63°
San Francisco	Cloudy	65° / 57°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	80° / 62°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 71°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	78° / 60°

## TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

3:31 AM	High Tide	2.17
10:33 AM	Low Tide	0.56
4:38 PM	High Tide	1.66
9:57 PM	Low Tide	0.99

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2023

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA156	6:55PM	7:40PM	1, 4 effective	UA112	5:00PM	5:50PM	1, 4 effective
June 5							
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)							
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)							
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA192							
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)							
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
ICN				via Guam			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau,
Guam				Guam			
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)							
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN							
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, TWay Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/	Sat/Sun			
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103							
ROTA TO GUAM							
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS		

# Business

**TAMUNING, Guam**—CMA CGM Foundation, the CMA CGM Group's philanthropic arm, has launched a disaster relief effort in response to Typhoon Mawar that impacted Guam and the island of Rota in the Northern Mariana Islands. The Foundation is coordinating efforts to mobilize resources through the group subsidiary, American President Lines, LLC (APL).

Containers have been deployed to help meet the critical needs of the people of Guam, civil authorities and the employees and families of Group subsidiaries, APL and CEVA Logistics, some of whom lost homes following the strongest weather event to strike the island in two decades. The containers will be used for temporary housing, cold storage for essential food items and ice, and local government coordination materials. Additionally, CMA CGM will provide generators to power refriger-

ated units and assist customers without electricity.

Guam is a strategic location for the CMA CGM Group, which manages two offices and operations at two terminals through APL and CEVA, its U.S. flag business and government logistics service provider, respectively.

## 'A commitment to meeting the critical needs of people'

Through CMA CGM's global presence and shipping and logistics' expertise, the foundation acts to mitigate humanitarian crises, operating across the entire philanthropic chain, purchasing, carrying and distributing relief equipment.

This operation is the latest in a series undertaken by the CMA CGM Foundation, including several large-scale humanitarian operations in Ukraine, India, and Turkey. In all, more than 22,000 tons of equipment have been shipped



The CGA CGM Herodote moored at the Port of Guam container terminal on Aug. 10, 2022.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

## CMA CGM mobilizes resources in support of Mawar relief effort in Guam

to provide for the essential needs of populations suffering from humanitarian crises.

Peter Levesque, president of CMA CGM America and American President Lines, said "We are honored to assist the

residents of Guam, many of whom are our customers and employees who were affected by Typhoon Mawar, by using all available resources to help through the CMA CGM Foundation. This effort demonstrates

our unwavering commitment to Guam and putting our words to action whenever and wherever we called to do so."

Charlie Hermosa, general manager of APL, Guam, for his part, said "These efforts

mean a lot to us. Rebuilding will take time, and it's the Group's commitment to Guam, its residents, our customers, and our employees that matters most in our time of need." (PR)

## Soros cedes control of empire to younger son

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Billionaire investor turned philanthropist George Soros is ceding control of his \$25 billion empire to a younger son, Alexander Soros, according to an exclusive interview with The Wall Street Journal published online Sunday.

Soros' business holdings include his nonprofit Open Society Foundations, which is active in more than 120 countries around the world and funnels about \$1.5 billion annually to groups such as those that back human rights and promote the growth of democracies around the world, according to its website.

The 37-year-old, who goes by Alex, told the Wall Street Journal that he is "more political" than his 92-year-old father, who has been a right-wing target for his backing of liberal causes such as reducing racial bias in the justice system. But he noted that the two "think alike."

Alex said he was broadening his father's "liberal aims" and embracing different causes including voting and abortion rights, as well as gender equity. He said he aims to keep using the family's wealth to back left-leaning U.S. politicians.

Alex told the Wall Street Journal that he recently met with Biden administration officials, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and heads of state, including Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, to push for

issues related to the family foundation.

In December, the board of Open Society Foundations, known as OSF, elected Alex as its chairman, succeeding his father. The newspaper also reported that Alex now directs political activity as president of Soros' super PAC.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the younger Soros is the only family member on the investment committee overseeing Soros Fund Management, which manages money for the foundation and the family.

During the interview with the newspaper, Alex expressed concern that former President Donald Trump would return to the White House and hinted that the Soros organization would play a key financial role in the 2024 presidential race.

"As much as I would love to get money out of politics, as long as the other side is doing it, we will have to do it, too," he said in the interview that took place at the fund manager's New York offices.

Alex is the oldest of two sons from George Soros' marriage with his second wife, Susan Weber, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The appointment passes over George Soros' elder son Jonathan Soros, 52, a lawyer with a background in finance. He had been believed to be the clear successor until "a falling out and a change of heart," according to the paper.

## China struggles with weak post-COVID economic recovery

**SHIYAN, China** (AP)—Sales of Yizhuan Automobile Co.'s trash trucks picked up after China ended anti-virus controls in December, but their growth is in low gear as managers struggle to rebuild business lost during the pandemic.

China's economy rebounded at the start of 2023, but after a good first quarter, factory output and consumer spending are weakening. An official survey in April found a record 1 in 5 young workers in cities were unemployed.

Yizhuan's sales are up only by single-digit percentages from last year's depressed level, according to its deputy general manager, Yu Xiongli. The 300-employee company is in Hubei province, where the first coronavirus cases were detected in late 2019.

"It is still in the process of recovering," Yu said. "Growth is quite slow."

China's economic growth accelerated to 4.5% over a year earlier in the three months ending in March from the previous quarter's 2.9%, but forecasters say the peak of that recovery might already be past.

Growth would need to pick up further to reach the ruling Communist Party's target of "around 5%" for the year.

"For now, the ongoing momentum seems not that prom-



A worker walks by liquid tanker trucks at a Yizhuan Automobile Co. manufacturing factory during a media-organized tour in Shiyan city in central China's Hubei Province on May 12, 2023.

ising," said UBS economist Zhang Ning.

The economy needs a "domestic demand rebound" with government support to boost confidence for businesses and consumers, Zhang said.

The end of restrictions that isolated cities for weeks at a time and blocked most international travel prompted hopes for a consumer boom. But retail sales are weak. Shoppers are uneasy about the economic outlook and possible job losses and are reluctant to commit to big purchases.

Retail sales in April surged 18.4% over last year's lackluster level, but that was barely half the growth of up to 35% called for by pri-

vate sector forecasts. Factory output fell 0.5% compared with March and investment growth slowed.

"I have misgivings about spending money," said Xue Liang, who works in information technology in Beijing. "COVID-19 and changes in the international situation have made us worry a lot."

Manufacturing contracted faster in May, according to a survey by the national statistics agency and an industry group. New orders and export orders declined.

Exports in May tumbled 7.5% from a year ago after global consumer demand was depressed by interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve

and central banks in Europe and Asia to cool inflation. Exports to the United States plunged 18.2%.

That is a challenge for automakers and other manufacturers that are trying to make up for weak demand at home by selling more abroad.

Tenglong Automobile Co., which makes electric buses in the southwestern city of Xiangyang, sent salespeople to Russia, South Korea and Southeast Asia as soon as travel controls ended to try to revive orders after a three-year gap.

"Last year, our foreign customers basically didn't come," said Tenglong's deputy general manager, Zhou Shengming. "But this year, we already have had several batches. In May, we had three."

Yizhuan in Shiyan, which also sells sanitation, cargo and dump trucks to city governments and construction companies, says it exports vehicles worth about \$20 million a year to Russia and Southeast Asia.

Li Yichun, who runs a bodyguard business in Beijing, said his customers are less willing to spend.

"It can be seen from my business that the economy is not recovering very well," Li said. "A lot of clients who are bosses are not intending to spend on hiring as they did before."

# Nation

## Trump, allies escalate attacks on criminal case

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Donald Trump and his allies are escalating efforts to undermine the criminal case against him and drum up protests as the former president braces for a history-making federal court appearance this week on dozens of felony charges accusing him of illegally hoarding classified information.

Trump's Tuesday afternoon appearance in Miami will mark his second time in as many months facing a judge on criminal charges. But unlike a New York case some legal analysts derided as relatively trivial, the Justice Department's first prosecution of a former president concerns conduct that prosecutors say jeopardized national security and that involves Espionage Act charges carrying the threat of a significant prison sentence in the event of conviction.

Ahead of his arraignment, Trump ratcheted up the rhetoric against the Justice Department special counsel who filed the case, calling Jack Smith "deranged" and his team of prosecutors "thugs" as he repeated without any evidence his claims that he was the target of a political persecution.

He called on his supporters to join a planned protest at the Miami courthouse



Former President Donald Trump speaks during the North Carolina Republican Party Convention in Greensboro, N.C., Saturday, June 10, 2023. AP

Tuesday, where he will be arraigned on the charges.

"We need strength in our country now," Trump said, speaking to his longtime friend and adviser Roger Stone in an interview on WABC Radio.

"And they have to go out and

they have to protest peacefully. They have to go out."

"Look, our country has to protest. We have plenty of protest to protest. We've lost everything," he went on.

He also said there were no circumstances "whatsoever"

under which he would leave the 2024 race, where he's so far been dominating the Republican primary.

Other Trump supporters

have rallied to his defense with similar language, including Kari Lake, the unsuccessful Republican gubernatorial candidate in Arizona who

pointedly said over the weekend that if prosecutors "want to get to President Trump," they're "going to have to go through me, and 75 million Americans just like me. And most of us are card-carrying members of the NRA."

Trump's calls for protest echoed exhortations he made ahead of a New York court appearance last April, where he faces charges arising from hush money payments made during his 2016 presidential campaign, though he complained that those who showed up to protest then were "so far away that nobody knew about 'em." And just like in that case, he plans to address supporters in a Tuesday evening speech hours after his court date.

Trump is expected to depart for Miami on Monday and will spend the rest of the day in Florida, huddled with advisers. After his court appearance, he will return to New Jersey, where he's scheduled a press event to publicly respond to the charges.

Trump supporters were also planning to load buses to head to Miami from other parts of Florida, raising concerns for law enforcement officials who are preparing for the potential of unrest around the courthouse.

## Sources: 'Unabomber' died by suicide in prison medical center

Ted Kaczynski, known as the "Unabomber," who carried out a 17-year bombing campaign that killed three people and injured 23 others, died by suicide, four people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

Kaczynski, who was 81 and suffering from late-stage cancer, was found unresponsive in his cell at the Federal Medical Center in Butner, North Carolina, around 12:30 a.m. on Saturday. Emergency responders performed CPR and revived him before he was transported to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead later Saturday morning, the people told the AP. They were not authorized to publicly discuss Kaczynski's death and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Kaczynski's death comes as the federal Bureau of Prisons has faced increased scrutiny in the last several years following the death of wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein, who also died by suicide in a federal jail in 2019. Kaczynski had been held in the federal Supermax prison in Florence, Colorado, since May 1998, when he was sentenced to

four life sentences plus 30 years for a campaign of terror that set universities nationwide on edge. He admitted committing 16 bombings from 1978 and 1995, permanently maiming several of his victims.

In 2021, he was transferred to the federal medical center in North Carolina, a facility that treats prisoners suffering from serious health problems. Bernie Madoff, the infamous mastermind of the largest-ever Ponzi scheme, died at the facility of natural causes the same year.

A Harvard-educated mathematician, Kaczynski lived as a recluse in a dingy cabin in rural Montana, where he carried out a solitary bombing spree that changed the way Americans mailed packages and boarded airplanes.

His targets included academics and airlines, the owner of a computer rental store, an advertising executive and a timber industry lobbyist. In 1993, a California geneticist and a Yale University computer expert were maimed by bombs within the span of two days.

Growing up in Chicago, Kaczynski skipped two grades before attending Harvard at age 16, where he published papers in prestigious mathematics journals. (AP)

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Police: 3 dead, 3 wounded in shooting at Maryland home stemming from dispute

**ANNAPOLIS, Md.** (AP)—Three people were killed and three wounded in a shooting Sunday night at a house in Maryland's capital city, police said. Annapolis Police Chief Edward Jackson told reporters at a media briefing that the shooting stemmed from what he described as an "interpersonal dispute" and that there was no further threat to the public. "It's a very active and fluid investigation. We're still trying to determine everything that occurred. We're still piecing it together. We have a lot more work to do," Jackson said. He declined to elaborate on the relationship between the people involved, but said those killed ranged in age from their 20s to their 50s. He said that authorities hadn't established a firm motive for the shooting. "It wasn't random," Jackson said, noting that the victims "died outside" the home. Numerous police cars were seen in the residential area where the shooting happened south of the city center and near the waterfront. Jackson said officers responded to the shooting around 8 p.m.

#### NY firefighter drowns while trying to rescue daughter

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A New York City firefighter lost his life while trying to save his daughter, who became distressed while swimming at a New Jersey beach, authorities said.

FDNY firefighter Mark Batista of Teaneck, New Jersey, died Friday morning, WNBC-TV reported. The 39-year-old reportedly went into the water at Sylvania Avenue beach in Avon-by-the-Sea around 8:30 a.m. to assist his 15-year-old daughter. It was not immediately clear what happened to the girl to require assistance near a jetty, the station reported. First

responders contacted by witnesses rescued the girl from the water, but her father was not found until around 10 a.m. about 50 feet (15 meters) from the shore. Police said emergency responders attempted life-saving measures before Batista was transported to Jersey Shore University Medical Center, where he died, WNBC reported. The girl also was transported to the hospital and was expected to recover.

#### Bail hearing set for Utah woman accused of killing husband then writing grief book for kids

**PARK CITY, Utah** (AP)—A Utah woman who wrote a children's book about coping with grief after her husband's death, and was later accused of fatally poisoning him, is scheduled to appear in court Monday to determine whether she should remain detained or have an opportunity to post bail. Kouri Richins, 33, is charged with murder and drug possession. Prosecutors say in court documents that she slipped five times the lethal dose of fentanyl into a Moscow mule cocktail she made for her husband, Eric Richins, amid marital disputes and fights over a multimillion-dollar mansion she ultimately purchased as an investment. The mother of three self-published an illustrated book about an angelic father watching over his sons. The case became a true-crime fixation when charges were filed last month, prompting people to pore over the children's book and scrutinize remarks she made while promoting it as a tool to help children grieve the loss of a loved one. Prosecutors have painted a picture of a conniving woman who tried to kill her husband weeks earlier by lacing a Valentine's Day sandwich with hydrocodone and repeatedly denied her involvement on the day of his death in March 2022, even telling police, "My husband is active. He doesn't just die in his sleep. This is insane."

# Asia

## Honduras opens embassy in China after breaking off ties with Taiwan

**BEIJING** (AP)—Honduras opened an embassy in Beijing on Sunday, Chinese state media reported, months after the Central American nation broke off relations with Taiwan to establish diplomatic ties with China.

China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang and his Honduran counterpart Enrique Reina took part in the inauguration of the embassy on Sunday morning, China's official CCTV said. The report said Honduras still needed to determine the embassy's permanent location and would increase its number of staff.

Qin pledged that China would establish a new model with Honduras of "friendly cooperation" between countries with different sizes and systems, according to a statement from China's Foreign Ministry.

The symbol of the two sides' strengthening diplomatic ties came during Honduran President Xiomara Castro's six-day visit to China.

Honduras established formal relations with China in March, becoming the latest in a string of countries to break diplomatic ties with Taiwan. China sees self-governed Taiwan as a breakaway province, to be retaken by force if necessary, and prohibits its own diplomatic partners from having formal



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang, left, and his Honduran counterpart Enrique Reina unveil the Honduras Embassy plate during the inauguration of the embassy in Beijing, Sunday, June 11, 2023.

ties with Taipei.

The island also faces increasing military threats from Beijing. Its defense ministry on Sunday reported that 10 Chinese warplanes crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial boundary once tacitly accepted by both sides. In response, Taiwan deployed aircraft, naval vessels, and land-based missile systems.

Castro arrived in Shanghai on Friday on her first visit since the establishment of relations. During her stay in Shanghai, she visited the headquarters of the New Development Bank, a bank established by the BRICS nations, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Honduras requested admission

to the bank, Castro's office tweeted Saturday.

The president also visited a research center for technology giant Huawei before arriving in Beijing on Saturday night, China's official Global Times newspaper reported.

The ties formed in March were a diplomatic victory for China amid heightened tensions between Beijing and the United States, including China's increasing assertiveness toward Taiwan. It also signaled China's growing influence in Latin America.

China and Taiwan have been locked in a battle for diplomatic recognition since they split amid civil war in 1949, with Beijing spending billions to win recognition for its "one China" policy.

## Most active PH volcano spews lava, locals ready to evacuate

**DARAGA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippines' most active volcano has begun spewing lava in a gentle eruption, putting thousands of people on heightened alert for the possibility of a violent explosion that would force them to suddenly evacuate from their homes, authorities said Monday.

More than 12,000 villagers have left their homes so far in mandatory evacuations from the mostly poor farming communities within a 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) radius of Mayon volcano's crater in northeastern Albay province. Those evacuations began after the volcano began showing signs of renewed restlessness last week.

Authorities cautioned that thousands more remain within the permanent danger zone below Mayon, which has long been declared off limits.

With the volcano beginning to expel lava Sunday night, the high-risk zone around Mayon may be expanded should the eruption turn violent, said Teresito Bacolcol, director of

the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. Bacolcol said if that happens, people in any expanded danger zone should be prepared to evacuate to emergency shelters.

From a distance Sunday night, a team of Associated Press journalists witnessed the volcano spewing lava down its southeastern gullies for hours. People hurriedly stepped out of restaurants and bars in a seaside district of Albay's capital city of Legazpi, about 14 kilometers (8.5 miles) from Mayon, many snapping pictures of the country's most popular volcano.

Albay was placed under a state of emergency on Friday to allow for quicker distribution of any disaster relief funds in the event of a major eruption. On Thursday, authorities raised the alert level for the 2,462-meter (8,077-foot) volcano.

A key tourist draw for its picturesque conical shape, Mayon is one of the country's 24 active volcanoes. It last erupted violently in 2018, displacing tens

of thousands of villagers.

In 1814, Mayon's eruption buried entire villages and reportedly left more than 1,000 people dead. But many of Albay's people have accepted the volcano's sporadic fury as part of their lives.

Aside from villagers living in communities perilously close to the volcano, authorities and villagers began moving large numbers of cows and water buffaloes on Sunday from high-risk farms to 25 temporary grazing area a safe distance away. They're following more than 12,600 villagers who have moved to emergency shelters since last week, when Mayon began spewing superheated gas and producing heavy ashfall in a sign of a possible major eruption imminent within days or weeks.

"It's not only people that should be brought to safety but their farm animals too," Albay provincial veterinarian Manny Victorino told The AP. He said authorities were taking steps to avoid a deeper economic impact should the volcano erupt.

# World

## Ukraine 'counteroffensive, defensive actions' begin

**KYIV, Ukraine** (AP)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday that counteroffensive and defensive actions are underway against Russian forces, asserting that his top commanders are in a "positive" mindset as their troops engaged in intense fighting along the front line.

The Ukrainian leader, at a Kyiv news conference alongside Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, responded to a question about Russian President Vladimir Putin's comment a day earlier that Ukraine's counteroffensive had started—and Ukrainian forces were taking "significant losses."

Zelenskyy said that "counteroffensive, defensive actions are taking place in Ukraine. I will not speak about which stage or phase they are in."

Top Ukrainian authorities have stopped short of announcing a full-blown counteroffensive was underway, though some Western analysts have said fiercer fighting and reported use of reserve troops suggests it was.

"I am in touch with our commanders of different directions every day," he added, citing the names of five of Ukraine's top military lead-

ers. "Everyone is positive. Pass this on to Putin."

Trudeau, the first foreign leader to visit Ukraine since devastating floods caused by a breach in a Dnieper River dam, offered up monetary, military and moral support. He pledged 500 million Canadian dollars (\$375 million) in new military aid, on top of more than 8 billion Canadian dollars (\$6 billion) that Canada has already provided since the war began in February 2022, and announced 10 million Canadian dollars (\$7.5 million) for humanitarian assistance for the flood response.

Trudeau said the dam's collapse was "a direct consequence of Russia's war," but he didn't blame Moscow directly.

Ukraine's General Staff said Saturday that "heavy battles" were ongoing, with 34 clashes over the previous day in the country's industrial east. It gave no details but said Russian forces were "defending themselves" and launching air and artillery strikes in Ukraine's southern Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Recent Western injections of billions of dollars' worth of military equipment—some of it high-tech and top-of-the-line—to Ukraine

has raised expectations about when it would be used, and to what effect against dug-in Russian lines.

For months, Ukrainian commanders in the eastern city of Bakhmut—which was largely devastated in a months-long fight that has been one of the bloodiest battles of the war—have used the language of counteroffensive and defensive operations to describe the activity there.

Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said Friday that the epicenter of the fighting has been in the east, particularly in the Donetsk region, and cited "heavy battles" in Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Marinka.

Valerii Shershen, a spokesperson for Ukraine's armed forces in Zaporizhzhia, told Radio Liberty that they were searching for weaknesses in Russia's defense in that region, to the west.

Ukraine's nuclear energy agency Energoatom said the last operating reactor at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, had been placed in "cold shutdown" mode. That's a process in which all control rods are inserted into the reactor core to stop the nuclear fission reaction and generation of heat and pressure.

## Boris Johnson's exit from Parliament leaves UK politics reeling

**LONDON** (AP)—Former U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson left chaos in his wake Saturday after quitting Parliament with a blast at fellow lawmakers he accused of ousting him in a "witch hunt."

As opponents jeered, the Conservative government absorbed the shock of yet another Johnson earthquake, while a band of loyal supporters insisted Britain's divisive ex-leader could still make a comeback. Two Johnson allies joined him in quitting the House of Commons, piling pressure on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

Less than a year after he was forced out as prime minister by his own Conservative Party, Johnson unexpectedly stepped down as a lawmaker late Friday—"at least for now," he said in a self-justifying resignation statement.

Johnson quit after being told he will be sanctioned for misleading Parliament over "partygate," a series of rule-breaking gatherings in the prime minister's office during the coronavirus pandemic. Johnson was among

scores of people fined by police over late-night soirees, boozy parties and "wine time Fridays" that broke restrictions the government had imposed on the country.

Johnson has acknowledged misleading Parliament when he assured lawmakers that no rules had been broken, but he said he didn't do so deliberately, genuinely believing the gatherings were legitimate work events.

A standards committee investigating him appears to see things differently. Johnson quit after receiving the report of the Privileges Committee, which has not yet been made public. Johnson faced suspension from the House of Commons if the committee found he had lied deliberately.

Johnson, 58, called the committee "a kangaroo court" that was determined to "drive me out of Parliament."

"Their purpose from the beginning has been to find me guilty, regardless of the facts," Johnson said.

The committee, which has a majority Conservative

membership, said Johnson had "impugned the integrity" of the House of Commons with his attack. It said it would meet Monday "to conclude the inquiry and to publish its report promptly."

The resignation will trigger a special election to replace Johnson as a lawmaker for a suburban London seat in the House of Commons. Two allies of Johnson, Nadine Dorries and Nigel Adams, also quit, sparking three near-simultaneous by-elections—an unwanted headache for Sunak.

Johnson is a charismatic and erratic figure whose career has seen a series of scandals and comebacks. The rumpled, Latin-spouting populist with a mop of blond hair has held major offices but also spent periods on the political sidelines before Britain's exit from the European Union propelled him to the top.

A champion of Brexit, Johnson led the Conservatives to a landslide victory in 2019 and took Britain out of the EU the following year.

# Overdrive

By CASEY WILLIAMS  
Tribune News Service

I like traveling to California. I enjoy the warm weather, cool architectural vibe, surfing the waves, and of course, imbibing all of the latest electric cars. When I'm tired from a day in the sun, I grab dinner on a restaurant patio before cruising the Pacific Coast Highway with windows and sunroof open. If I lived there, I'd drive the 2023 Kia Niro EV. Even back home in Indiana, it would serve my active family well.

Kia actually makes three Niro: A 54-MPG hybrid, plug-in hybrid with 33 miles range and a full EV with 253 miles range, which I'm riding this week. They all look like the kind of car you'd attach a surfboard to its roof rails and drive to the beach, which means funky, cool styling highlighted by vertical LED headlamps, zig-zag driving lamps, contrasting silver swath on the rear bodyside, and finlike taillamps that appear lifted from Cadillac. Only a port in its chic little nose betrays its powertrain.

Reflecting the exterior, the cabin looks like an art gallery with a flush 20-inch dual panoramic infotainment display, ambient lighting, and rotary gear selector, I could easily wipe down and vacuum the interior after a day of saltwater and sand. Seats look like a combination of cloth and leather, but are actually 100% vegan for easy cleaning. Deep cubbies in the doors and console held my water and phone gear securely. I even recharged my laptop and pumped my daughter's



The 2023 Kia Niro EV offers 201 horsepower and 188 lb.-ft. of torque.

KIA/TNS

bicycle tires with an on-board generator. Power open the hatch to toss in wetsuits or camping gear.

And, it's pretty luxurious for a compact crossover-ish EV. Dual-zone automatic climate control, heated and ventilated front seats, heated rear seats, and a heated steering wheel keep everybody temperate. Power open the sunroof and crank up deep Harman Kardon audio after connecting wirelessly charged devices via Apple CarPlay or Android Auto.

It's a little strange for the touch strip below the screens to toggle between audio and

climate functions, using the same knobs for temperature, volume and tuning, but it minimizes controls and isn't really an issue since most owners set climate and leave it. Adding convenience, you can use your phone as a digital key and your key fob to remote park in tight garages.

Kia does not play when it comes to safety. Our Niro EV Wave edition came with automatic emergency braking, adaptive cruise, blind spot warning, lane tracing steering and rear cross path detection with auto brake. A rear seat monitor and safe-exit assist, which uses the blind

## NUTS & BOLTS

- Five-passenger, FWD Hatchback
- Powertrain: Li-Ion batteries/motors
- Output: 201hp/188 lb.-ft.
- Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
- Wheels f/r: 17"/17" alloy
- Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc
- Driving range: 253 miles
- 0-60 mph: 7.1s
- Recharge (DC Fast, 80%): 45m
- Economy (comb): 113-mpg-e
- Assembly: Hwaseong, Korea
- Base/as-tested price: \$26,590/47,765

spot system to keep passengers from stepping into traffic, excel. Speed, navigation and active safety systems project onto the head-up display to keep eyes ahead.

Moving onto the 405 (or Interstate 70), there's plenty of zip in the Niro's powertrain. It's not the fastest EV I've driven, but it puts 201 horsepower and 188 pound-feet of torque to ground through the front wheels. All-wheel-drive is not available, nor does it need it with traction and stability control. Kia claims it runs 0-60 mph in 7.1 seconds, which seems right given the smooth accel-

eration I experienced jetting onto the freeway. I kept it in Eco mode to optimize range.

In California, distance between charging stations is negligible, but in the Midwest it can be frightful. Fortunately, the car can be fast charged 10-80% in 45 minutes. That's considerably longer than the 18 minutes for the higher priced Kia EV6, but competitive. I gained about 60 miles range in four hours on a 240v home charger. I probably wouldn't drive from Chicago to L.A., but I would venture round-trip from L.A. to San Diego for a surf competition. In everyday use, including an hour-long interstate run to see my parents, range wasn't much concern.

Driving the Niro EV is a joy, with its quiet, swift acceleration, comfy cruising, and every box checked for safety and infotainment. With its recent restyle, the Niro is quite handsome inside and out. It would look even better dripping salt water before a scrub down and a night on the town with a few friends.

It's also pretty affordable. Base hybrids start at \$26,590, rising to \$33,840 for a plug-in and \$39,550 for the pure EV. Our tester, with every conceivable option, comes to \$47,765. At that price and with everything the Niro offers, it's should be cross-shopped against the Chevy Bolt, Ford Mustang Mach-E, Volvo XC40 Recharge and Nissan Leaf.

**Likes:** ample range, modern interior, funky styling

**Dislikes:** charging time, small wheels, bougie price (when loaded)

## Proper tire pressure

**Q:** I brought my 2018 Audi A3 to the dealer needing a new tire. I learned when I picked up the car that they filled the tires to 35 psi. The sticker inside the driver's door recommends 41 psi. I asked the service rep why the discrepancy and he told me the lower pressure will give a smoother ride and less tire wear. So why does Audi recommend 41 psi?

**H.G., Berwyn Illinois**

**A:** The service rep was probably blowing you off. Routinely, 35 psi is what the tire bouncer will inflate them to. Yeah, it's a hassle, but spend a buck and inflate your tires to the factory spec.

■■■

**Q:** My 2002 Chevy Astro has 157,500 miles on it. I have changed oil religiously every 3,000 since new. At 90,000 the oil level would be down about a pint at each 3,000 oil and filter change. Currently after a change and about 1,000 miles, it is down a quart. I see that Valvoline now markets several high-mileage motor oils. Do you think these products will help decrease oil consumption? Should I go to full synthetic and would it decrease consumption? My manual says 5W-20. Any reason to go to 5W-30? I do not notice any blue smoke at startup. I have noticed what is probably a minor seal leak, which I estimate to be about a teaspoon of oil per month, so I think the consumption is not due to a large seal leak?

**J.H., Clermont, Florida**



SIRI WANNAPAT/DREAMSTIME/TNS

Routinely, 35 psi is what the tire bouncer will inflate them to.

**A:** My suggestion is to try high-mileage motor oil. The industry considers 75,000 miles on the odometer as high. Yours is twice that. Here's what Valvoline says about their product: "Valvoline High Mileage ... is proven to maximize engine life in vehicles with over 75,000 miles. Our proprietary formula is a combination of synthetic and premium conventional oils to protect your high-mileage motor against wear, friction, heat and deposits—the four major causes of engine breakdown. Our premium seal conditioners rejuvenate aging seals to prevent leaks. (Say goodbye to oil spots on your driveway.) It also fights sludge, corrosion and rust that can rob your engine of horsepower and fuel efficiency. And it can help curb contaminants to keep high-mileage engines from burning and consuming oil."

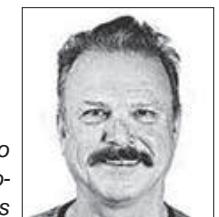
■■■

**Q:** I had been putting in windshield washer fluid on a daily basis and I noticed a small puddle of windshield washer fluid

## MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

on the garage floor recently. I scheduled an appointment with the dealership and had the bottle changed out. I drove home and the next day opened the hood and noticed an empty bottle. I then filled the bottle up to the top and proceeded to monitor the fluid. The next few days the bottle was going down despite not using the washers, so I scheduled another appointment to check things out. The dealership put it up on a hoist and confirmed no leaks at that time. There is no windshield washer fluid on the garage floor and nothing leaks at the dealership. Both situations the car is idle. Could there be something going on while the car is operating that would cause the leak?

**I.C., Golden Valley, Minnesota**

**A:** Take your car back to the shop and ask them to stand behind their work. Something is definitely not right. It is possible, but unlikely, that one of the quid lines is disconnected and airflow could be creating a vacuum sucking out the fluid.

# Life & Style

## Tony Awards make inclusive history; put on a show

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The intimate, funny-sad musical “Kimberly Akimbo” nudged aside splashier rivals on Sunday to win the musical crown at the Tony Awards on a night when Broadway flexed its creative muscle amid the Hollywood writers’ strike and made history with laurels for nonbinary actors J. Harrison Ghee and Alex Newell.

“Kimberly Akimbo,” with songs by Jeanine Tesori and a book by David Lindsay-Abaire, follows a teen with a rare genetic disorder that gives her a life expectancy of 16 navigating a dysfunctional family and a high school romance. Victoria Clark, as the lead in the show, added a second Tony to her trophy case, having previously won one in 2005 for “The Light in the Piazza.”

Producer David Stone credited the musical’s writers for penning a magic trick, calling “Kimberly Akimbo” a “musical comedy about the fragility of life, so healing



CHARLES SYKES/INVISION/AP

David Stone, center, and members of the company of “Kimberly Akimbo” accept the award for best musical at the 76th annual Tony Awards on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at the United Palace theater in New York.

and so profound and joyous that is almost impossible.” The musical took home a leading five awards, includ-

ing best book and score.

Earlier, Tony Awards history was made when Newell and Ghee became the first

nonbinary people to win Tonys for acting. Last year, composer and writer Toby Marlow of “Six” became the

first nonbinary Tony winner.

“Thank you for the humanity. Thank you for my incredible company who raised me up every single day,” said

leading actor in a musical winner Ghee, who stars in “Some Like It Hot,” the adaptation of the classic cross-dressing comedy film. The soulful Ghee stunned audiences with their voice and dance skills, playing a musician—on the run from gangsters—who tries on a dress and is transformed.

“The problem with ‘Trans-

formers: Rise of the Beasts’ is the same problem faced by all of the installments—balancing the humanity with the metal,” wrote AP’s Mark Kennedy in his review.

- “Transformers: Rise of the Beasts,” \$60.5 million.
- “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse,” \$55.4 million.
- “The Little Mermaid,” \$22.3 million.
- “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3,” \$7 million.
- “The Boogeyman,” \$6.9 million.
- “Fast X,” \$5.2 million.
- “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” \$2.1 million.
- “About My Father,” \$845,000.
- “The Machine,” \$575,000.
- “Past Lives,” \$520,772.

■ ■ ■

Critics didn’t love the

■ ■ ■

“Thank you for seeing me, Broadway. I should not be up here as a queer, nonbinary, fat, Black little baby from Massachusetts. And to anyone that thinks that they can’t do it, I’m going to look you dead in your face that you can do anything you put your mind to,” Newell said to an ovation.

Tom Stoppard’s “Leopoldstadt,” which explores Jewish identity with an intergenerational story, won best play, also earning wins for director Patrick Marber, featured actor Brandon Uranowitz and Brigitte Reiffenstuel’s costumes.

The British-Czech playwright, who now has five best play Tony Awards, joked he won his first in 1968 and noted that playwrights were “getting progressively devalued in the food chain” despite being “the sharp ends of the inverted pyramid.”

Second-time Tony Awards host Ariana DeBose opened a blank script backstage before dancing and leaping her way to open the main show with a hectic opening number that gave a jolt of electricity to what is usually an upbeat, safe and chummy night. The writers’ strike left the storied awards show honoring the best of musical theater and plays without a script.

Before the pre-show began, DeBose revealed to the audience the only words that would be seen on the teleprompter: “Please wrap up.” Later in the evening, virtually out of breath after her wordless opening performance, she thanked the labor organizers for allowing a compromise.

“I’m live and unscripted. You’re welcome,” she said.

## ‘Transformers’ edge out ‘Spider-Verse’ to claim first place at box office

By LINDSEY BAHR  
AP FILM WRITER

It was Miles Morales and the Spider-Verse versus the “Transformers” at the box office this weekend and the bots came out on top.

“Transformers: Rise of the Beasts,” the seventh entry in the series, took the No. 1 spot in its first weekend in North American theaters with \$60.5 million according to studio estimates Sunday. “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse” wasn’t too far behind, however, with an estimated \$55.4 million in its second weekend.

Critics didn’t love the

movie, but that’s also par for the course for this franchise. Overall, Rotten Tomatoes aggregated a less-than-fresh 52% rating.

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## Teen’s behavior has uncle unsure where to seek help

**D**EAR ABBY: My nephew is 19. I have been co-parenting him and his sister since they were 15. He has some issues that are normal for his generation. What isn’t normal is his inflated sense that life is all about him. If it doesn’t benefit him, he doesn’t do it. I have been giving him the structure, guidance and direction that he has asked for, but he’s not changing. His girlfriend has been on him about his poor hygiene, but he doesn’t change.

Lately, he has become withdrawn and silent, and he is by himself a lot. He literally sleeps all day. Oh, and he’s a compulsive liar, so we don’t know if anything he tells us is truthful. He does have depression issues and some trauma. Those signs are easy to spot in him. What gives, if you know?

OBSERVANT UNCLE IN INDIANA

**DEAR UNCLE:** Has your nephew been treated for his depression or trauma? Whether the answer is yes or no, it’s time for him to be checked by a physician to determine whether he may be physically or possibly mentally ill or on drugs. Please don’t wait to make it happen.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife goes to lunch with male co-workers at least a couple times a week. When she has lunch with them, she uses a credit card so I won’t know, but when she eats by herself, she uses our bank account. I have heard her make breakfast

dates by saying, “You know where,” or “The place by work,” rather than saying where. Is this common?

SUSPICIOUS IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR SUSPICIOUS:** You seem to be a VERY suspicious spouse. It’s not unusual for male and female co-workers to have a lunch together. “You know where” and “the place by work” are descriptors used by people who have a routine, not necessarily to obscure anything nefarious. Could your wife be secretive about it because she knows if she isn’t, you will give her the third degree?

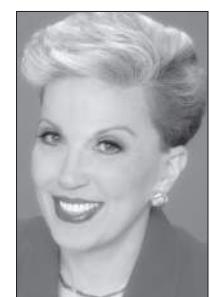
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**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 13-year-old guy. I live in California. There’s an eighth grade girl I have a crush on. The last time I saw her was three years ago in a musical theater show we were both in. I knew she liked me when she passed me a note that said, “Do you like me?” Sadly, I chickened out. I did write a really cool love rap for her. The problem is, she’s on TV shows and commercials in L.A., and she might think she’s too good for me now. How should I approach her? Should I show her my rap?

CRUSHING IN SAN DIEGO

**DEAR CRUSHING:** Approach her by letting her know you think she’s doing a great job on those shows and commercials.

**DEAR ABBY**  
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Then tell her you wrote something just for her and share it with her. It’s a huge compliment and she should be appreciative. However, if she indicates that she thinks she’s “too good for you now,” it is very important you remember that because someone feels that way DOESN’T MAKE IT TRUE. (There’s a showbiz adage that’s as true today as it was when it was coined: “Be nice to people you meet on your way up. You’ll meet them on your way down.”)

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



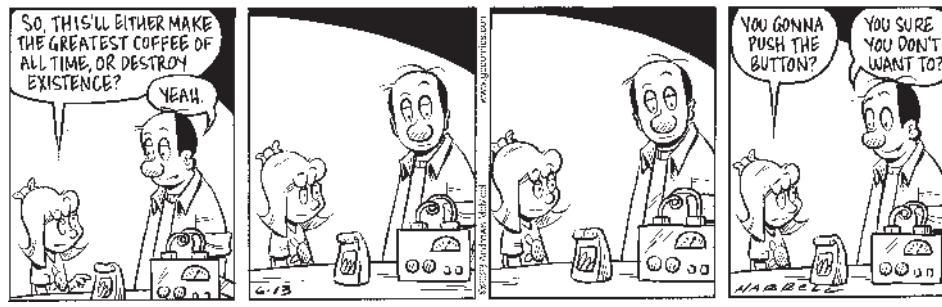
By Bill Watterson

## Garfield®



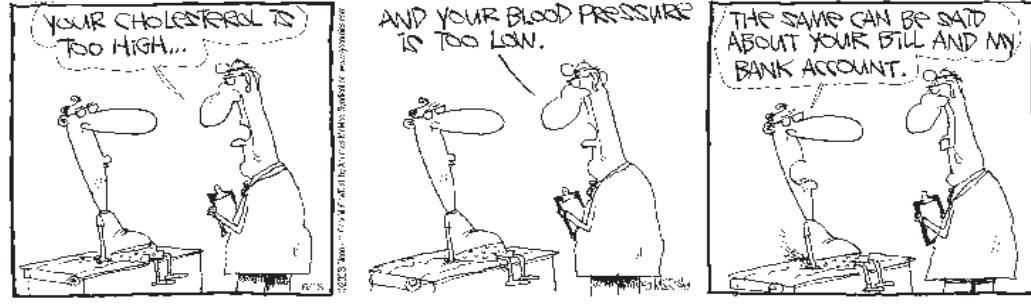
By Jim Davis

## Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	40	Refuse an offer	2	Prom rental	23	Dazzle
1	Trudge	43	Some winter clothes	3	Wine (Pref.)	24 "Strange Magic"
5	Govt. lender	47	Investigative journalist	4	Led	gp.
8	Twitches	48	Bob	5	Affix with needle and thread	25 Ultra-modernist
12	Stead	49	Curved molding	6	Gust	26 "Now, where —!"
13	Shade provider	50	Playwright William	7	"I love," to Ovid	27 Roman 401
14	Early TVs	51	Actor Stephen	8	Camera stand, often	28 Coffee vessel
15	Hotel chain	52	Fly like a hawk	9	Frozen drink brand	29 Golf prop
16	Most light-headed	53	Paraphernalia	10	Beer buy	31 Dalloway or Doubtfire
18	President Wilson	54	Ones with power	11	Bygone fliers	34 Car part
20	Tools for duels	55	"La — Bonita"	12	Stoic philosopher	35 Sufficient, old-style
21	A billion years	DOWN	Actor Nancy	13	Sound of surprise	36 Sound of
22	—cone	1	Singer Orbison	14	House Speaker	37 House
23	"Peter Pan" girl	Leisurely	15	Patricia	38 Fizzy drinks	39 Speaker
26	Art made with a carved block	1	Leisurely	16	Big gulp	40 Big gulp
30	Flamenco cry			17	First-rate	41 First-rate
31	"Sheesh!"			18	Meditative practice	42 Meditative
32	Dad on "Black-ish"			19	Freudian topics	43 Practice
33	Stereo components			20	Actress Patricia	44 Freudian topics
36	Speak one's mind				45 Anti-toxins	45 Actress Patricia
38	USN rank				46 NPR's Shapiro	46 Anti-toxins
39	Cyndi Lauper's " — Bop"				47	48 NPR's Shapiro

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-13

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kat Dennings, 37; Chris Evans, 42; Tim Allen, 70; Stellan Skarsgård, 72.

**Happy Birthday:** Question everything and everyone this year. Verify information, control what's important to you and don't let anyone talk you into doing things that make you feel uncomfortable. Check off all the boxes on your to-do list. Take the initiative to plan your actions and stick to your path. Personal gain, self-improvement and romance are favored. Your numbers are 3, 11, 20, 22, 27, 34, 45.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Refuse to let what others do stand in your way. Stick to the most efficient path, and you'll get to the finish line on time. Don't let anyone persuade you to follow rather than lead. Stay in control, and you'll reach your goal. **★★★**

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): Money matters will not be straightforward. Avoid joint ventures and shared expenses to evade paying for someone else's mistakes. Learn through observation, but follow your heart when it comes time to decide what to do next. Anger breeds contempt. **★★★**

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Chitchat will spark ideas and feed your imagination. Distance yourself from people who cause emotional problems or try to stand in your way. Make sure you have your documents to avoid bureaucratic setbacks. Fix your surroundings to suit your needs. **★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Put your wallet away. If you want to donate, offer your time, not your cash. The biggest impact you have on others comes from how you handle matters. Set a good example,

and an unexpected offer will spark your interest. Prepare to act. **★★**

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Simplify your plans to suit your needs and budget. Reach out to someone you know who can contribute what you require to make your life and work more efficient. Don't engage in something based on nonsense or poorly prepared or presented. **★★★★★**

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotional spending won't pay the bills. Rethink your strategy and budget wisely. Changing how or where you live will help lower your debt load and make goals easier to pursue. Trust your instincts, do your research and make moves. **★★★**

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A cheery disposition will work well for you when trying to drum up interest in your plans. The more energetic you are, the more enthusiasm you will encounter from those considering participating in helping you bring about change. Love is on the rise. **★★★**

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take care of yourself and your reputation. Honoring your promises and obligations will display loyalty to your beliefs and a desire to make a difference. Think outside the box, and the plan you devise will stand the test of time. **★★★**

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): How you handle money, contracts and medical issues will stand out. Refuse to let anger set in when discipline and common sense are your tickets to success. Distance yourself from anyone trying to use emotional blackmail to push you in a different direction. **★★★**

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Partnerships, communication and discipline are necessary. Don't take on too much or overreact to the decisions others make. Do what's best for you, and avoid anyone asking for too much. Connect with someone who can offer insight and opportunity. **★★★★★**

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider what makes you happy, and gravitate toward the people, places and pastimes that bring you joy. Distance yourself from those offering temptations that are costly or not good for you physically or financially. Share your feelings and adjust your lifestyle. **★★**

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your thoughts and plans to yourself. Be observant, and you'll dodge someone trying to exploit you. Look for an endeavor that will help you raise your earning potential. Don't limit possibilities because someone discourages you. **★★**

**Birthday Baby:** You are fun-loving, ambitious and friendly. You are insightful and demonstrative.

**Scorpio**: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **★★**: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. **★★★**: Focus and you'll reach your goals. **★★★★**: Aim high; start new projects. **★★★★★**: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1	4	9	2						
	5	6	7						

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	5	1	3	2	4	8	7	9
4	7	3	9	6	8	5	1	2
9	8	2	1	7	5	6	3	4
2	3	4	6	9	7	1	5	8
8	1	9	5	4	3	7	2	6
5	6	7	2	8	1	9	4	3
1	4	5	8	3	6	2	9	7
3	9	6	7	5	2	4	8	1
7	2	8	4	1	9	3	6	5

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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BBQ SEASON HAS BEGUN!

Solution: 10 letters

R	N	O	S	I	N	E	V	G	R	I	B	S	F	M
O	O	I	L	S	K	E	W	E	R	H	I	E	A	
A	N	T	O	A	M	B	U	R	I	I	R	A	A	T
S	G	R	I	L	E	E	K	S	P	E	L	F	N	L
T	I	E	O	S	R	V	K	I	N	A	I	L	U	E
C	M	M	T	E	S	E	N	O	S	A	L	T	M	
O	T	M	A	A	T	E	D	C	H	I	C	K	E	N
N	E	U	T	R	A	L	R	N	S	G	L	A	M	B
D	L	S	O	P	L	A	E	I	E	P	T	R	U	Y
I	I	A	P	E	H	P	A	S	E	T	O	S	S	E
M	F	L	W	©	O	O	K	Z	Q	S	R	H	I	K
E	E	M	I	O	I	T	A	P	Z	U	T	O	C	R
N	E	O	N	R	H	S								

# Djokovic wins 23rd Grand Slam title in French Open final



PARIS (AP)—Novak Djokovic made clear for years this was his goal. What drove him. What inspired him. The biggest titles from his sport's biggest stages were Djokovic's main aim and now he finally stands alone—ahead of Rafael Nadal, ahead of Roger Federer, ahead of every man who ever has swung a racket.

If Djokovic could wait this long to hold this record, he certainly could wait for the half-hour or so it took to straighten out his strokes in the French Open final. And so, after a bit of a shaky start in thick, humid air and under foreboding clouds Sunday, he imposed himself. The opponent at Court Philippe Chatrier, Casper Ruud, never really stood a serious chance after that.

Djokovic earned his men's record 23rd Grand Slam singles championship, breaking a tie with Nadal and moving three in front of the retired Federer, with a 7-6 (1), 6-3, 7-5 victory over Ruud that was not in doubt for most of its 3 hours, 13 minutes.

Djokovic puts this one alongside the French Open titles he earned in 2016 and 2021, making him the only man with at least three from each major. He won his very first at the 2008 Australian Open and now possesses a total of 10 trophies from there, seven from Wimbledon and three from the U.S. Open.

"I knew that going into the tournament, going into the match, especially, today, that there is history on the line, but I try to focus my attention and my thoughts into preparing for this match in the best way possible to win, like any other match," Djokovic said, wearing a red jacket with "23" stitched on the chest. "Of



badly. Alcaraz continued to play, but the scores of the last two sets of the four-set match told the story: 6-1, 6-1.

This was the third Slam final in the past five events for Ruud, a 24-year-old from Norway, but he is now 0-3. He lost to Nadal at the French Open a year ago and to Alcaraz at the U.S. Open last September.

Perhaps due to an awareness of all that was at stake, Djokovic, in his 34th major final, was the one who got off to a shaky start.

"Maybe feeling a bit nervous, little stressed," Ruud said about his opponent.

But by the close of the first set, Djokovic was downright Djokovic-esque, as he was while taking 12 of the last 13 points of the match, most accompanied by spectators' thunderous chants of his two-syllable nickname, "No-le! No-le! No-le!"

When one last miscue from Ruud landed out, Djokovic dropped onto his back with limbs spread wide.

"He kind of pressures you, in a way, to go for more risks, and that's tough," Ruud said. "He just stepped up, like he knows how to do."

At first, though, Djokovic kept missing forehands—into the net, wide, long—then made a different sort of mistake, shanking an overhead from near the net way beyond the opposite baseline to get broken and trail 2-0.

For whatever reason, that shot always has been Djokovic's "bête noire," and he missed another overhead later in the set.

Soon, Ruud led 4-1, thanks in part to Djokovic's troubles. By then, Djokovic accumulated 13 unforced errors, while Ruud made just four.

And then everything changed.

Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates winning the men's singles final match of the French Open tennis tournament against Norway's Casper Ruud in three sets, 7-6 (7-1), 6-3, 7-5, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday, June 11, 2023.

course I would lie if I say that I didn't think about the finish line that is right there and that one more match is needed to win a trophy—a historic one."

Also worth noting: He again is halfway to a calendar-year Grand Slam—winning all four majors in one season—something no man has achieved since Rod Laver in 1969. Djokovic came close in 2021, when he won the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon and made it all the way to the title match at the U.S. Open before losing to Daniil Medvedev.

Djokovic will resume that pursuit at Wimbledon, which begins on the grass of the All England Club on July 3. "He has this software in his head that he can switch (on) when a Grand Slam comes," said his coach, Goran Ivan-

isevic. "The day we arrived here, he was better, he was more motivated, he was more hungry. Every day, he played better and better."

Entering the 2011 season, this is how the Slam count looked: 16 for Federer, nine for Nadal, one for Djokovic.

"Pretty decent 12 years, I must say, for me," Djokovic said with a smile.

The climb began with a trio that year and accelerated lately: He has clutched the trophy at 11 of the last 20 Slams, a remarkable run made even more so when considering that he did not participate in two majors during that span because he did not get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Margaret Court won some of her all-time record of 24 Slam trophies in the amateur era.

States ahead of last year's U.S. Open under a rule that since has been lifted.

Getting to 23 not only sets the mark for men, but it also lets Djokovic equal Serena Williams, who wrapped up her career last year, for the most by anyone in the Open era, which began in 1968.

Margaret Court won some of her all-time record of 24 Slam trophies in the amateur era.

At 20 days past his 36th birthday, the Serb is the oldest singles champion at Roland Garros, considered the most grueling of the majors because of the lengthy, grinding points required by the red clay, which is slower than the grass or hard courts underfoot elsewhere.

Nadal's 22nd major arrived in Paris a year ago, two days after he turned 36. He has

been sidelined since January by a hip injury and had arthroscopic surgery on June 2.

"Many congrats on this amazing achievement," Nadal tweeted shortly after the final concluded. "23 is a number that just a few years back was (impossible) to think about, and you made it!"

Djokovic's triumph on Sunday means he will return to No. 1 in the ATP rankings on Monday, replacing Carlos Alcaraz. Djokovic already has spent more weeks at the top spot than any player—man or woman—since the inception of computerized tennis rankings a half-century ago.

It was Djokovic who eliminated Alcaraz in the semifinals on Thursday, wearing him down over two thrilling sets until the 20-year-old Spaniard's body cramped up

against Golden State.

On that Cavaliers squad was Kevin Love, the 34-year-old Heat forward who's been preaching that anything can happen.

"You really just have to take it one possession at a time," Love said. "It's just one possession, one quarter, half-to-half. Just get it done by any means necessary and figure the rest out."

Butler couldn't agree more. Just don't mention moral victories and how much they've accomplished.

It's ring or bust.

"All the odds, 8-seed—nah, none of that matters," Butler said. "It's just two really good basketball teams. One has to get one win, and one has to get three. Let's just hope that the other that has to get three, gets three."



DENVER (AP)—The

Miami Heat are searching for inspiration anywhere they can find it, including a tennis great's record-setting win at the French Open and even their mascot's quick rebound from a few punches to the face.

Jimmy Butler and the Heat might be down 3-1 in the NBA Finals against the Nuggets heading into Game 5 on Monday night in Denver, but they hardly consider themselves out.

"(Our belief) is at an all-time high," said Butler, whose team is hoping to avoid watching the Nuggets celebrate their first NBA title. "It always has been all year. It always will be."

From Day 1, the Heat have demonstrated their scrappiness. At first, it was in scrimmages

## Heat looking for inspiration any place they can find it against Nuggets

against each other in training camp and later in earning the No. 8 seed into the postseason through a second chance in the play-in tournament. They knocked out Giannis Antetokounmpo and Milwaukee in the first round, then the New York Knicks, and rebounded in Game 7 in Boston after squandering 3-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

Bottom line: They're used to doing things the hard way. "They love the ultimate challenges and the ultimate competition," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "The narratives are not going to decide it. Whatever the analytics are about 3-1, that ain't going to decide it. It's going to be decided between those four lines, whose game can get to

whose game and ultimately win at the end. That's what our guys love."

A little motivation goes a long way, too. They drew encouragement from Serbian great Novak Djokovic earning his men's record 23rd Grand Slam singles championship Sunday with a victory over Casper Ruud.

The Heat are trying to channel the inner belief Djokovic displayed as they face another Serbian standout in Nuggets big man Nikola Jokic.

"(Djokovic) has talked about that mental side of the game," said Spoelstra, who had no update on the availability of Tyler Herro, the sharpshooting guard sidelined by a hand injury. "We have a very stubborn and defiant group, and I think it's good

to have a little bit of defiance from time-to-time."

For tenacity, the Heat don't need to look any farther than their mascot, Burnie, who took two punches from former UFC champion Conor McGregor in a skit that led to the person in the costume seeking medical attention. Burnie could be back on the court, though, should the Heat force a Game 6 in Miami on Thursday.

"That's the Miami Heat toughness that we're talking about," Spoelstra said of the mascot's return. "He should have been allowed to take the first swing. We won't reveal who that is, but yeah, he can take a punch and get back up."

The Nuggets have the Heat down on the canvas, with no

# McClanahan earns MLB-best 10th win, Rays take 2 of 3 from Rangers



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

(AP)—Shane McClanahan became the first 10-game winner in the major leagues and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Texas Rangers 7-3 on Sunday, taking two of three games in a match up of the teams with best records in baseball.

McClanahan (10-1) allowed three runs, all in the third inning, and four hits over seven innings. The 26-year-old left-hander retired his final 15 batters.

Wander Franco homered off Martín Pérez (6-2) in the fourth inning for MLB-leading Tampa Bay (48-20), which improved to 31-7 at home. Randy Arozarena, Isaac Paredes, Taylor Walls, and Harold Ramírez added run-scoring hits for the Rays.

Robbie Grossman homered for the AL West-leading Rangers (41-23), who have lost three of four.

Pérez lasted a season-low 3 1/3 innings, allowing a season high-tying seven runs and 10 hits.

## RED SOX 3, YANKEES 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Kiké Hernández hit a tiebreaking single in the 10th inning and Boston beat New York with the help of a late error by second baseman Gleyber Torres.

Justin Turner homered and Brayan Bello allowed three hits in seven efficient innings for the Red Sox, matching his career high. Last-place Boston (33-33) took two of three at Yankee Stadium in the first series this season between the rivals.

Kenley Jansen (2-3) worked a 1-2-3 ninth for the win. Chris Martin worked a hitless inning for his 10th career save and first for the Red Sox.

Jose Trevino's early two-run single that took a lucky bounce off second base was one of only three hits for the Yankees — and all the offense they could muster. Ron Mariano (2-3) took the loss.

## PIRATES 2, METS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Andrew McCutchen got his 2,000th hit, Jack Suwinski hit his 12th home run and Pittsburgh sent New York to its eighth loss in nine games.

McCutchen became the 291st player and fifth active player to reach 2,000 hits when he laced a slider from Carlos Carrasco (2-3) to left field leading off the first.

Mitch Keller (8-2) allowed two hits in seven innings for the Pirates, who went 6-3 during a season-high nine-game homestand to move into first place in the NL Central (34-30). David Bednar earned his 14th save in 15 chances.

Jeff McNeil hit his third home run of the season for New York, which finished a 1-5 trip through Atlanta and Pittsburgh.

## ATHLETICS 8, BREWERS 6

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Seth Brown and Brent Rooker hit back-to-back homers in the fourth inning and Oakland completed its first series sweep of the season.

Kevin Smith also homered as the A's erased an early 2-0 deficit and won their fifth straight. This marks the first time they've had five consecutive victories within the same season since September 2021.

Since falling 5-4 at Pittsburgh on Monday for their 15th straight road loss, the Athletics have gone 5-0 on the road. Athletics starter JP Sears (1-3) struck out five and allowed six hits and two runs in five innings.

Christian Yelich homered for the Brewers. Freddy Peralta (5-6) took the loss.

## ROCKIES 5, PADRES 4

DENVER (AP)—Ryan McMahon hit a tying homer in heavy rain just before a 1-hour, 25-minute delay in the ninth inning and Nolan Jones hit a game-ending 472-foot drive just after the resumption in Colorado's win over San Diego.

Colorado's Coco Montes homered in his major league debut to spoil a strong start by Blake Snell, who struck out a season-high 12 in seven innings. Ezequiel Tovar also went deep for the Rockies. Justin Lawrence's (3-3) pitched an inning of relief and earned the win.

Jake Cronenworth homered and Fernando Tatís Jr. had two hits for the Padres, who were trying to sweep a series in Denver for the first time since Sept. 19-21, 2011. Brent Honeywell (2-4) took the loss.

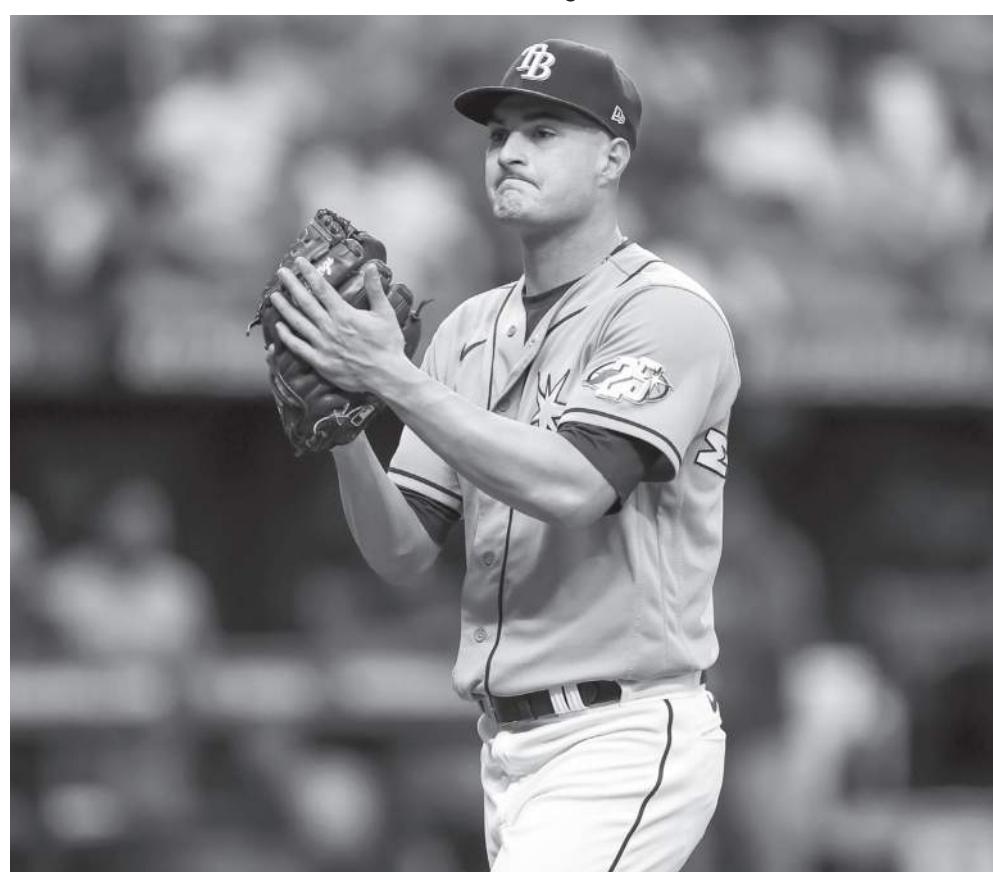
## NATIONALS 6, BRAVES 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Dominic Smith and Jeimer Candelario hit two-run homers in the sixth inning as Washington stopped a six-game skid and Atlanta's seven-game winning streak.

Trevor Williams (3-4) allowed two runs, seven hits and one walk in five innings with six strikeouts. Carl Edwards Jr., Kyle Finnegan and Hunter Harvey combined for two-hit relief.

Bryce Elder (4-1) allowed a season-high five runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings. Elder struck out a season-low one.

Keibert Ruiz had two hits and an RBI for the Nationals, and Luis García also had two hits. Matt Olson hit his 18th home run, a two-run



AP

Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Shane McClanahan celebrates at the end of the seventh inning against the Texas Rangers in a baseball game, Sunday, June 11, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

shot, for the Braves.

## ANGELS 9, MARINERS 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Rookie Zach Neto had his first two-homer game, Shohei Ohtani kept up a hot June with three hits and Los Angeles beat Seattle.

Matt Thaiss drove in three runs and Taylor Ward also went deep for the Angels, who have won six of seven. Griffin Canning (5-2) won for the third time in four starts, striking out seven in five-plus innings.

Seattle's Teoscar Hernández had three hits, including a two-run homer in the fourth. Ty France also had three hits and Mike Ford had a solo shot in the fifth for the Mariners, who finished a 2-6 trip. Logan Gilbert (4-4) allowed eight hits, two walks and two homers and seven runs (six earned) in three innings for the loss.

## ORIOLES 11, ROYALS 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Gunnar Henderson homered for the second consecutive game, and Baltimore completed a series sweep and dealt Kansas City its sixth straight loss.

Starter Kyle Gibson earned his fourth consecutive victory for Baltimore. Ramón Urias had four hits and Ryan O'Hearn homered as part of a three-hit day as the Orioles completed their fourth series sweep.

Salvador Pérez homered for Kansas City, which has dropped nine of 10. The Royals (18-47) have the second-worst record in the majors, ahead of only Oakland, and have scored eight runs in their last five games.

Gibson (8-3) allowed three runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings. Mike Mayers (1-2) took the loss.

## PHILLIES 7, DODGERS 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Nick Castellanos homered, Trea Turner had three hits and Philadelphia beat Los Angeles for its seventh win in eight games.

Bryce Harper had two hits, an RBI and reached base all four times as the Phillies took two of three from the Dodgers.

Freddie Freeman and Jason Heyward homered for the Dodgers, who have lost six of eight and dropped 3 1/2 games behind first-place Arizona in the NL West.

Taijuan Walker (6-3) pitched five scoreless innings, allowing two hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Caleb Ferguson (3-3) was the opener for LA and gave up a run and three hits in one inning.

## BLUE JAYS 7, TWINS 6

TORONTO (AP)—Cavan Biggio hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the eighth inning and Toronto overcame a five-run deficit to beat Minnesota and avoid a three-game sweep.

Biggio's fifth homer of the season came off Emilio Pagán (3-1), who began the eighth by giving up singles to Alejandro Kirk and Santiago Espinal.

Matt Chapman added a two-run homer and had three RBIs for the Blue Jays, who are 8-3 in June. Nate Pearson (4-0) allowed one hit in two scoreless innings. Jordan Romano picked up his 18th save in 21 chances.

Donovan Solano homered for the AL Central-leading Twins, who failed to hold a 6-1, fifth-inning lead. Minnesota's Royce Lewis had three hits.

## DIAMONDBACKS 7, TIGERS 5

DETROIT (AP)—Christian Walker hit a go-ahead double off Jason Foley (2-2) with two outs in a four-run ninth inning as NL West-leading Arizona won its fifth straight, completing a three-game sweep that extended the Tigers' losing streak to nine games.

Corbin Carroll closed Arizona to 5-4, and Walker hit an RBI double as left fielder Kerry Carpenter's error allowed the go-ahead run. Gerardo Perdomo followed with a run-scoring single.

Kevin Ginkel (3-0) pitched two hitless innings, and Scott McGough got two outs for his second save.

## GUARDIANS 5, ASTROS 0

CLEVELAND (AP)—Shane Bieber (5-3) gave up three hits over seven innings nine strikeouts. Trevor Stephan and closer Emmanuel Clase pitched an inning apiece to finish the four-hitter.

Andrés Giménez hit a two-run homer in the second inning off Brandon Bielak (3-3) and Josh Bell added a solo shot in the fourth as the surging Guardians, who have won six of eight and 10 of 16, took a series from Houston for the first time since 2017.

## MARLINS 6, WHITE SOX 5

CHICAGO (AP)—Bryan De La Cruz hit a two-run

double in a three-run ninth inning as Miami beat Chicago, winning for the eighth time in nine games.

Jorge Soler hit two of Miami's four solo homers. Garrett Cooper and Jean Segura also connected as Miami rallied for victory for the fifth time in seven games and the 20th time this season.

Bryan Hoeing (1-1) pitched a scoreless inning for the win, and A.J. Puk worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his seventh save.

Luis Robert Jr. hit a two-run homer for Chicago, which led 5-1 after seven innings. Kendall Graveman (1-3) took the loss.

## REDS 4, CARDINALS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Rookie Elly De La Cruz had two hits, reached base four times and scored the go-ahead run with a headfirst slide on an eighth-inning grounder, helping Cincinnati past St. Louis.

De La Cruz beat out an infield single in the first inning, and tied the score at 2 with an RBI single in the third. After walking in the sixth, he scored on Tyler Stephenson's single, tying the score at 3. In the eighth, he walked against Jordan Hicks (1-4) and moved to third on a groundout and passed ball. With the infield in, Stephenson hit a two-hopper to Paul DeJong, whose throw was slightly up the first-base line and in the dirt. The ball bounced off Contreras' mitt and De La Cruz scored.

Ian Gibaut (6-1) allowed one hit in 1 2/3 scoreless innings of relief. Alexis Díaz remained perfect in 15 save chances as the Reds took two of three from the Cardinals. Jonathan India homered in the win.

Jordan Walker, Tommy Edman and Nolan Arenado knocked in runs for the Cardinals.

## GIANTS 13, CUBS 3

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Joc Pederson and Thairo Estrada each hit two-run homers and drove in four runs as San Francisco built a six-run lead through five innings and rolled past Chicago.

Blake Sabol added two hits and two RBIs for a Giants offense that banged out 15 hits less than 24 hours after being no-hit for 7 2/3 innings by Chicago's Kyle Hendricks in a 4-0 loss.

Gold Glove shortstop Brandon Crawford came off the bench to get the final three outs. Tristan Beck (1-0) pitched two innings to win.

Yan Gomes had two hits for the Cubs. Hayden Wesneski (2-4) allowed four hits and five runs in three innings. He is winless since April 27.

## Barefoot runner leads age group winners

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**RUN SAIPAN**  
**Grotto 10K**  
Barefoot runner Chong Nam Lee led the age group winners in Run Saipan's 2nd Annual Grotto 10K '23 last Saturday in Marpi.

The 65-year-old completed the 10-kilometer run from the Grotto to just past Kalabera Cave in 50:25 to rule the 65-and-over division.

Lee said last Saturday's conditions were great for running a 10K run, especially in Marpi.

"The weather was great for this running event and thanks to Edward Dela Cruz Jr., president of Run Saipan, and volunteers from Run Saipan for the perfect preparation. It was a really fun running event in Saipan."

As for his preference to running barefoot, he said the benefits of barefoot running are plentiful and could be better accessed via YouTube.

Fellow barefoot runner Chang Whan Jang came in second in a time of 1:34:05, while Gerald Alm completed the Top 3 in 1:20:51.

In the boys under 17, Yung Jun Lin was the first to cross the finish line in 52:17. He was fol-

lowed by Landen Taflinger and Kazuki Kamegai in 57:40 and 1:00:29, respectively.

Addalee Taflinger was the lone competitor in the girls under 17 and finished in a time of 1:00:15.

In the 35-39 age group, Fulie Ding, Kerri Baur, and Prativa Pandey finished 1-2-3 with times of 1:00:30, 1:02:08, and 1:46:14, respectively.

Rick Baur topped the men's 40-44 division after reaching the Grotto in 51:26. Travis Spaeth was second in 58:11, while coming in third was Joshua Castro with a time of 1:17:36.

For the women, Megan Dame was first after tearing the tape in 59:29, followed by Kathleen Tolentino and Robyn Spaeth in 1:02:51 and 1:04:34, respectively.

In the 45-49, Isao Usui was numero uno among the men with a time of 1:00:24. Jess Gariguez and Paul Manglona completed the Top 3 in 1:00:14 and 1:00:24, respectively.

Rosemarie Chisato and Mei Hua Jin were the only women entered in the group and they finished with a time of 58:45 and 1:11:20.

In the men's 50-54, Raymund Tolentino finished first in 56:54, followed by Christopher

but that was for fun—I wasn't that serious, but this show I took it a little serious because I actually prepared for it."

On his thoughts of the competition, he said that it was a good turnout. When asked if he will be representing the CNMI in the Pacific Games this November, he said that he will be leaving soon and won't be able to, but he'll be training people for that competition.

As for 26-year-old Sanchez, his thoughts were that he's hungry but that it felt good winning



MARK RABAGO

Barefoot runner Chong Nam Lee crosses the finish line of Run Saipan's 2nd Annual Grotto 10K '23 last Saturday in Marpi.

King in 1:06:32.

Jessica Ortiz topped the women's division in 57:26 with Malou Carlos second in 1:06:53. Elizabeth Church was third in 1:08:57.

Saipan Community Church pastor Stephen Dame won the men's 55-59 division after finishing in 59:35, while Lydia Tan did the same in the women's age group after submitting a time of 58:44.

Marie Sablan, meanwhile, won the women's 60-64 after completing the run in 1:27:33.

as there's more people competing. "A win is a lot more exciting when there's a lot of competitors. The last time I competed there were probably only two people, so when you get that win—yes, it's good that you won, but you kind of want that challenge a little bit."

His preparation for the competition consisted of him focusing on cutting while maintaining muscle, so not really on a particular body part, "just try and make sure everything is in working order."

The competitors this time around, Sanchez said, were good. "There's a lot of people and a lot of new faces, so that's a good thing to see in the community. We want to see a lot more people get into this kind of sport because it does help into the discipline aspect. It's not just about the gym, but about trying to survive through the prep, and just knowing that outside in life, there's always going to be a reward after hard work. So this competition is a prime example of that."

The patriarch of the Iakopo family, Stanley Iakopo, thanked his wife for being their rock in their family. He and all his four children had a podium finish in this competition. He said "it's impossible without your spouse and the support of your wife—so I give all the credit to my wife for everything she's done for me and the children."

Results of the other categories will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.



The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce that registration for its 14th Annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament is still open and will close tomorrow, June 14, 2023.

Golf enthusiasts are encouraged to seize this opportunity to participate in a thrilling golfing experience while supporting a worthy cause.

The tournament, scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2023, will take place at the scenic LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort's west course. This fundraising event aims to support the Saipan Chamber Scholarship Program, which provides financial assistance to local students pursuing higher education, along with other Chamber programs that benefit the community.

Participants in the tournament will not only have the chance to compete for fantastic cash prizes but also have the opportunity to win amazing raffle prizes. The raffle prizes

## Chamber Golf Tournament registration extended

Registration forms for players can be downloaded from the Saipan Chamber website ([www.saipanchamber.com](http://www.saipanchamber.com)), obtained from the Front Desk at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, or collected in person at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Office, located at the Marianas Business Plaza, 2nd Floor, Suite 201-A. The Chamber strongly encourages golfers to submit their forms and fees by Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at the Chamber office to streamline the day-of check-in process and facilitate the payment of registration, raffle tickets, and optional play contests before the tournament.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top-performing golfers, with \$800 for first place, \$650 for second place, and \$500 for third place. In addition to the prizes, players will receive complimentary ditty bags courtesy of the Chamber, on-course refreshments, and post-tournament refreshments to make their experience truly memorable.

The tournament will kick off with a showtime at 6am, followed by a shotgun start at 7am on Saturday, June 17, 2023, afterwards a player refreshment banquet. The registration fee for each team is \$280, and players will have the opportunity to purchase tickets for the raffle prizes during registration and throughout the tournament.

play against seeded players again.

In the last event of the day, the mixed doubles, Chan Wang and Seung Chan Shin overpowered Japan's Hashiru Shimono and Miku Shigeta

The speedy Shimono and Shigeta were no match to the powerful and tactful Wang and Shin. Shin had actually competed earlier in the women's doubles with partner Yu Lim Lee, but lost to Chinese-Taipei's Hsu Ya Ching and Lin Wang Ching.

Wang and Shin had better returns and caused Shimono and Shigeta to commit crucial mistakes. The first set was a no-doubt win for South Korea, 21-13.

am impressed this year with Carol's ability to play offense at the proper times and her ability to finish points at the net," he said.

According to Georgia Tech's sports website, the All-American award is a prestigious title given to student-athletes that earn a Top 16 seed in the NCAA Singles Championship, advance to the round of 16 in the NCAA Singles Championship or finish in the top 20 of the ITA



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The CNMI's pride Carol Lee, second from right, poses with, from left, his father Dong Min, sister Anne, brother Sean, and mother Eunkyoung.

## VALDEZ

From Page 20

respective weight classes and took first place.

For 30-year-old Valdez, he prepped for 14 weeks leading up to competition day. He said he felt great winning overall as it's a tough lineup with more competitors. "I feel good about the results... And I think I did pretty good—better than the last time I competed," he said. "Last time I competed was in 2019



From left, second place in the short category of the Men's Physique Davy Laxa, first place Athan Taisague, and third place Audiescott Iakopo during the awarding of the 2023 Dee Clayton Classic and Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation Championships last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort Taga Hall.



Enrico Valdez, center, is the overall champion of the Men's Physique category in the 2023 Dee Clayton Classic and Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation Championships last Saturday evening at the Saipan World Resort Taga Hall.

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On his thoughts of the competition, he said that it was a good turnout. When asked if he will be representing the CNMI in the Pacific Games this November, he said that he will be leaving soon and won't be able to, but he'll be training people for that competition.

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## SOUTH

From Page 20

yazaki came out victorious in an exciting battle for the title, 25-23.

However, the third set proved to be laborious for Miyazaki as Kim regrouped and took control and won the decisive third set, 21-13.

Kim is considered a qualifier and started from the bottom in this tournament as she was not in the main draw. She had to play in the qualifier last Tuesday to make it to the main draw, where she had to play against seeded players. In this week's tournament, she's still a qualifier and would have to

## CAROL

From Page 20

cess in sports, "I would say to keep working hard and to go after the opportunities they get and support one another," she said.

Harmon, for his part, said he's really happy for Lee getting a second consecutive All-American nod.

"Her hard work and discipline are really paying off. I



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The CNMI's pride Carol Lee, second from right, poses with, from left, his father Dong Min, sister Anne, brother Sean, and mother Eunkyoung.

## Singles Rankings

Lee led Georgia Tech from the No. 1 singles position all season, compiling a 29-12 overall singles record, and went 17-7 in dual singles matches from the top position. The Yellow Jacket earned an individual bid to the NCAA Singles Championship and earned a Top 16 seeding, clinching All-America status.

Making her second appearance in the NCAA Singles Championships, Lee reached the quarterfinals, marking the deepest run of her career. A mainstay in the national singles rankings, Lee climbed as high as No. 7 nationally on March 21 and finished the season ranked No. 14.

Lee also became the first Yellow Jacket to earn singles All-America honors since Victoria Flores and Kenya Jones earned the distinction in 2021. She is also one of eight representatives of the Atlantic Coast Conference on the ITA All-American singles list.



Djokovic wins 23rd Grand Slam title in French Open final.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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Barefoot runner leads age group winners.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Valdez, Sanchez, Iakopo are overall champs

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The 2023 Dee Clayton Classic and Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation Championships saw 21 contestants compete for the coveted titles of overall champions last Saturday evening at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall.

The Men's Physique overall title went to Enrico Valdez out of eight competitors; Lorenzo Sanchez bested six others for the overall champion-

ship of the Classic Physique category; and Stanley Iakopo grabbed the overall championship in the Bodybuilding category out of two others.

Valdez took first place in the tall division of the Men's Physique and the overall title. Second to him was Daniel Matsunaga; third place went to Jolo Berueco; fourth was Bernardino Lopez; and fifth went to Richard Waldo Jr.

In the short category of the Men's Physique, first place went to Athan Taisague; Davy Laxa took second place; and



LEIGH GASES  
From left, men's overall Classic Physique winner Lorenzo Sanchez, men's overall Bodybuilding champion Stanley Iakopo, and third place in Bodybuilding, Ralph Villas, pose for a photo during the awarding of the 2023 Dee Clayton Classic and Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation Championships last Saturday evening at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall.

Audiescott Iakopo went home with third place.

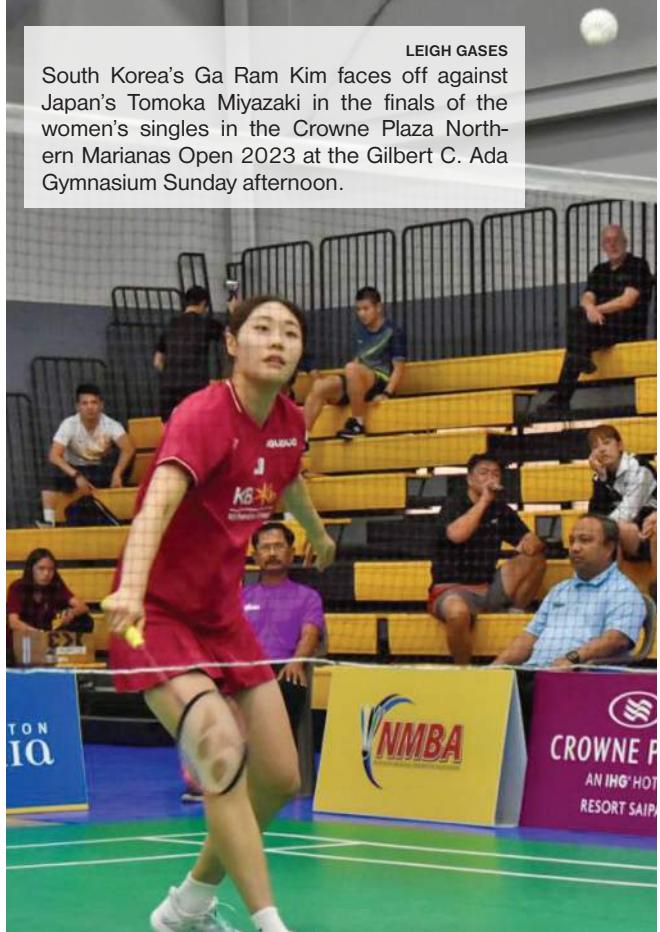
Sanchez, meanwhile, took first place in the short division of the Classic Physique category and the overall championship. Second to Sanchez was Davy Laxa; third was Mometto Iakopo; and Ralph Villas took fourth place.

First place in the tall category went to Daniel Matsunaga; second was Jolo Berueco; and third was Darren Matsunaga.

In the Bodybuilding category, Stanley Iakopo in the lightweight class took the overall title; Lorenzo Sanchez in the bantamweight and Ralph Villas in the welterweight were the only competitors in their

See VALDEZ on Page 19

## South Korea takes women's singles, mixed doubles



LEIGH GASES  
South Korea's Ga Ram Kim faces off against Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki in the finals of the women's singles in the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Sunday afternoon.



LEIGH GASES  
South Korean mixed doubles partners Seung Chan Shin, left, and Chan Wang are the mixed doubles champions of the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Sunday afternoon.

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**S**outh Korea took home two out of five titles in the first badminton 2024 Paris Olympics qualifier in the CNMI—the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023—at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Sunday afternoon.

Ga Ram Kim faced off against Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki in a tough women's singles matchup.

Kim held a steadfast defense in the first set as Miyazaki failed to properly place returns. The first set came and ended swiftly as Miyazaki committed errors while Kim pulled away for a 21-15 win. When it seemed like Kim

would shut down Miyazaki in the second set though, Miyazaki put on the fight of her life as both took turns scoring.

Miyazaki was aiming at prolonging the match to a tie-breaking third set and that she did as the game was tied consecutively in the last points of the game. Eventually, Mi-

See SOUTH on Page 19

## Carol Lee gets 2nd All-American nod

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The CNMI's Carol Lee got her second All-American selection last week after the Intercollegiate Tennis Association officially announced the 2023 All-American honorees.

Lee and Georgia Tech teammate Kate Sharabura got All-

American honors as a women's doubles pair last year.

"Earning the All American nod was one of the goals I wanted to accomplish this year so it feels good that I have earned it and this motivates me to keep pushing forward toward my other goals. I'm hoping that this nod would help other CNMI tennis players to have strong hope and believe in accomplishing any sort of personal goals they have," Lee

told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Saipan Community School alumnus thanked her coaches, Georgia Tech teammates, and family for helping her attain this latest feat.

"I would like to mention my coaches, Rodney [Harmon] and Alexis [Casati], my team, my family, my dad, and my supporters from Saipan who have helped me along my journey," said the daughter of Lee Dong Min and Lee

Eunkyoung. Lee also gave special mention to ITF Development for making her the tennis player she is now.

As for her message to CNMI youth who aim to achieve suc-

See CAROL on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Carol Lee, second from right, and Georgia Tech teammate Kate Sharabura, second from left, pose with the Yellow Jackets women's tennis team head coach Rodney Harmon, right, and assistant coach Alexis Casati.

